

ust 18, 1998  
grandmother  
s driving test  
X (AFP) — An 81-  
woman has already  
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ON (R) — Almost  
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1 clocks  
(AFP) — A group of  
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ECY (AFP) — A  
woman who lost  
jewels at the scene  
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ist. He found the  
ing jewellery worth  
10,000 euros, and  
near a highway  
hen he stopped  
on the road and  
to Boulogne-Bi-  
stern France. He  
its owner, who had  
and made a de-  
it safe and want  
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ians tuning to  
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CKHOLM (R) —  
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ers failed to find  
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ls with research-  
s set off on  
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entures-old fly

**Parliament adjourned on 22nd**  
AMMAN (J.T.) — A Royal Decree was issued Tuesday adjourning the extraordinary session of the 13th parliament as of August 22, 1998. The Parliament reconvened on Saturday June 6 in an extraordinary session by virtue of a Royal Decree issued June 12, 1998 to discuss thirty three draft laws.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية الراية

Volume 23 Number 6920 AMMAN WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 1998, RABI II 27, 1419 Price: Jordan 200 Fils

## Regent urges envoys to develop Jordan's ties with other countries

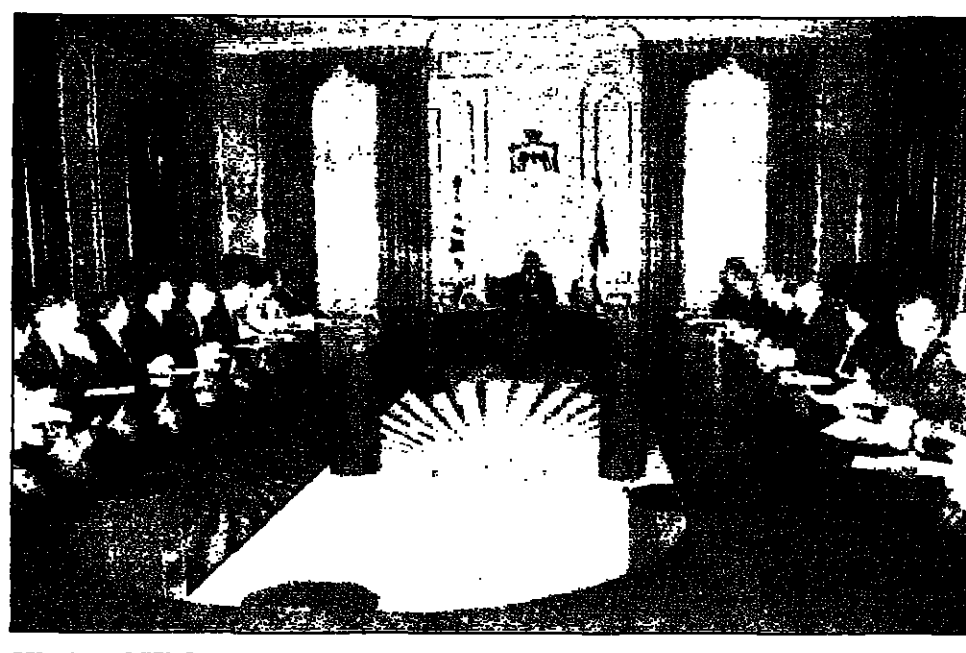
AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday said that Jordan will enhance its regional and international relations to better serve its national interests and at the same time boost its internal achievements through enhancing democracy, transparency, dialogue, and continued economic and administrative reforms.

During a meeting at the Royal Court with Jordanian ambassadors of several Arab and foreign countries, Prince Hassan called for developing coordination and cooperation with various Arab states to serve the interests of and aspirations of Jordan and the Arab World.

Prince Hassan reiterated Jordan's full support for the Palestinian people in their drive to regain their legitimate rights on their national soil.

The Crown Prince pointed to the unique Jordanian-Palestinian relations and Jordan's support for an independent Palestinian identity on Palestinian soil, voicing the Kingdom's rejection of the "isolation by Israel of residential" Palestinian areas by cordoning them off with Israeli settlements.

The Regent stressed Jordan's clear position towards the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with whom Jordan can have integral relations based on the independence of the



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, talks to Jordan's ambassadors on Tuesday (Photo by Boghos)

Palestinian state so that "we will have two Arab states: a Jordanian state and a Palestinian state, an Arab lung East of the River and West of the River (Jordan)."

Prince Hassan said that the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty "was aimed to support those who preceded us in signing similar agreements and to protect Jordanian and Palestinian rights and interests."

The Crown Prince warned of the grave consequences of the failure of the peace process, saying that the region will suffer a great deal "if the current bottleneck and obstacles cannot be overcome in accordance with the obligations and agreements in force."

The Regent called for the respect of human dignity, political, economic and human rights warning that "without respect of these rights there will be no stability nor security in the region."

The Regent called for applying uniformed standards in dealing with weapons of mass-destruction and stressed the need for avoiding selectivity in this area.

On the internal situations in the Kingdom, Prince Hassan stressed Jordan's resolve to introduce economic and social reforms to achieve qualitative results that will reflect positively on the Jordanian citizens and their standards of living.

The Crown Prince noted that irresponsible freedom

## Prince Hassan receives President Bashir's letter

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday received a message addressed to His Majesty King Hussein from Sudanese President Omar Hassan Al Bashir expressing wishes for the King's speedy recovery and continued health and happiness.

The message was delivered by Sudan's Minister of Foreign Affairs Mustafa Ismail who arrived in Amman Monday.

The Regent who expressed appreciation of the Sudanese president's good wishes called for continued efforts to further bolster bilateral relations. Prince Hassan expressed his satisfaction with Jordanian-Sudanese ties saying they were assuming new dimensions, especially in the field of investments in trade and agriculture.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan receives Sudan's Minister of Foreign Affairs Mustafa Ismail on Tuesday (Photo by Boghos)

The Regent underlined the need for Arab countries to promote the concept of economic integration.

Ismail voiced Sudan's deep appreciation of King Hussein's stands towards Sudan noting in particular Jordan's assistance to the country, sponsored by the Hashemite Charity Organi-

## Visa applicants asked to leave premises after bomb threat at U.S. embassy

By Tareq Ayyoub  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A U.S. embassy official on Tuesday said that embassy's offices were not ordered to close down yesterday following what Reuters News Agency described as "telephone warning."

The embassy employees were not ordered to evacuate the premises and offices were not closed," Stephen Thiebault, the press attaché at the U.S. mission, told the Jordan Times.

Thiebault was responding to a news report carried by Reuters which said the embassy had ordered the evacuation of all visitors and visa

applicants from inside the mission following the "warning."

Thiebault declined to comment on whether the embassy had actually received any warning.

One applicant told Reuters that he was told by an American at the embassy to leave the premises.

"It's a real threat. They had a phone call," the employee was quoted as telling the visitor.

Around 100 visa applicants were asked to leave the embassy and told to return on Wednesday, the agency added.

U.S. embassy guards and Jordanian security personnel sealed off the area surrounding the embassy after a threatening phone call was received,

## Clinton admits to sex with Lewinsky

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton admitted to Americans Monday that he had a sexual relationship with Monica Lewinsky but denied breaking any laws in an unprecedented televised speech aimed at saving his presidency.

"I did have a relationship with Ms. Lewinsky that was not appropriate. In fact it was wrong," a drained-looking Clinton said from the White House Map Room, confirming to the public what he had said hours earlier in secret grand jury testimony in the same room.

Clinton, who for seven months stuck to a blanket denial of allegations of sex in the White House with Lewinsky, called his relationship with her a "critical lapse in judgement and a personal failure on my part for which I am solely and completely responsible."

But Clinton used part of his five-minute speech to deliver an angry attack against independent counsel Kenneth Starr for his long investigation into various activities by the president and his wife Hillary.

"This has gone on too long, cost too much and hurt too many innocent people," he said.

He vowed to make amends with his wife of more than 20 years and daughter Chelsea, 18.

"Now this matter is between me, the two people I love most — my wife and our daughter — and our God. I must put it right, and I am prepared to do whatever it takes to do so."

"Nothing is more important to me personally," he said.

"But it is private and I intend to reclaim my family life for my family. It's nobody's business but ours. Even presidents have private lives. It is time to stop the personal destruction

## 'Netanyahu saved by Monica'

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli editorialists viewed the Monica Lewinsky affair Monday as a boon for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, predicting a weakened President Bill Clinton would now not risk trying to pressure Israel over the stalled Middle East peace process.

The independent Haaretz said that whatever the outcome of the grand jury investigation into Clinton's sexual dalliances, the U.S. leader "will be a lame president who in the best scenario will use his remaining two years in office to recover."

Referring to Palestinian and Israeli leaders, Haaretz said Clinton would do this "not by using Moshe Abu Mazen, Arafat-Bibi, and the troop withdrawals but by focusing on his speciality — domestic American affairs."

"Monica will go down in history as the woman who screwed a U.S. president and saved an Israeli prime minister," it wrote.

Netanyahu has for months resisted appeals by the Clinton administration that his government cede another 13 per cent of the West Bank to Palestinian control in order to revive peace negotiations stalled for nearly 18 months.

U.S. officials issued numerous veiled threats country such a turmoil.

Senator John Chafee, a moderate Republican from Rhode Island, hoped Clinton's speech would hasten the conclusion of this "tawdry matter" and called Clinton's behaviour deplorable.

"It is extremely inappropriate for a person in authority to engage in such behaviour with a subordinate," he said.

Sen. Orrin Hatch, a Utah Republican who chairs the Senate Judiciary Committee, said he was pleased that Clinton "finally took some responsibility for his actions." "But I have got to tell you that I was really offended that he started to attack Ken Starr at the end," he said.

The president made the blockbuster revelation about Lewinsky during four hours of grand jury testimony.

Closed-circuit television broadcast the testimony to a

## Panel hands over water report to PM today

By Ahmad Khatib  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The government will today hand Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali its report on the six-week-old water contamination crisis, a Cabinet minister said Tuesday.

Deputy Prime Minister and Information Minister, Abdullah Ensour told the Jordan News Agency (Petra) the committee investigating the water problem will dispatch its final report to Majali at 8 a.m.

But Ensour did not say

when the report will be made public.

He said, "the committee's investigations were totally independent."

Upon the request of His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, ordered the government to form its own committee to probe the crisis and pinpoint the responsible parties behind it.

But some deputies protested that the formation of such a committee translates into the government investigating itself.

Ensour added that Zai

## U.N. envoy says Iraq still refuses to cooperate

BAGHDAD (R) — The U.N. special envoy in Iraq said on Tuesday Baghdad stood by its decision to suspend cooperation with U.N. weapons inspectors.

"There is no change in Iraq's decision announced on August 5," Prakash Shah told reporters.

Shah's comments echoed similar remarks by Iraq's U.N. envoy on Monday, referring to an earlier announcement that the Baghdad government would not cooperate with U.N. weapons inspection teams until they were restructured to eliminate alleged U.S. influence.

"However, Iraq will continue the dialogue... to carry on cooperation with

the U.N. with the aim of ending the sanctions regime and end the oil embargo," Shah said.

Shah, the special envoy of U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan, has held two meetings with Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz since he arrived last Thursday. He conveyed a message from Annan urging Iraq to resume cooperation with U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) weapons inspectors.

Shah said he conveyed to Aziz a message from Annan stressing the need for Iraq "to fully comply with its obligations and relevant Security Council resolutions."

The U.N. envoy said if

(Continued on page 7)



## Israeli court rejects Vanunu's demand for foreign lawyers

BEERSHEVA (AFP) — Mordechai Vanunu, a former nuclear technician jailed for leaking details of Israel's atomic weapons programme, has been refused access to foreign lawyers seeking damages for the prisoner, officials said Tuesday.

In an appeal Monday to a Beersheva court, Vanunu asked for permission to meet with two British lawyers representing him in a suit against a third country involved in his 1986 capture by Israeli secret

agents, officials said.

The court rejected the demand, saying Vanunu could deal with the foreign attorneys through his Israeli lawyers, a court spokesman said.

Vanunu, 43, was sentenced to 18 years in prison in 1986 after giving a British newspaper details of Israel's arsenal of nuclear weapons.

Israeli agents subsequently lured Vanunu from London to Italy, where he was kidnapped and brought to Israel for trial.

Vanunu, who had worked as a technician at Israel's top secret Dimona nuclear facility, has claimed that his abduction was facilitated by the secret service of a third country, which he wants to sue for damages.

An Israeli parole board in May refused to release Vanunu even though he was eligible for parole after serving two-thirds of his sentence.

Citing humanitarian concerns, the authorities did however release Vanunu from the solitary confinement

in which he had been kept for the previous 12 years.

The Israeli security establishment believes Vanunu remains a threat and that his release would damage Israeli efforts to counter nuclear weapons development programmes in Arab states.

But the Israeli is widely considered a prisoner of conscience abroad for his anti-nuclear stand.

## ICRC team in Iran to visit Iraqi PoWs

TEHRAN (AFP) — A delegation from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is in Iran to meet Iraqi prisoners of war (PoW) seeking political asylum here, the foreign ministry said.

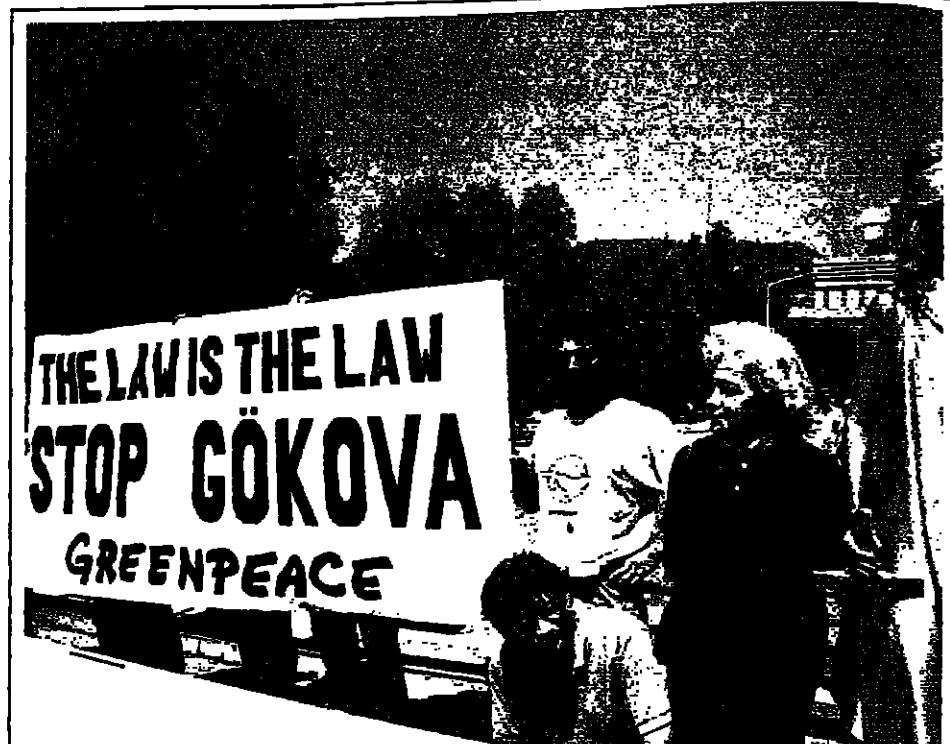
The delegation has been interviewing the Iraqis since Wednesday, according to foreign ministry officials quoted by the Jomhuri Islami newspaper on Monday.

"Those who express a desire to return home will be taken to Iraq and others will stay here as refugees," the ministry said.

Tehran and Baghdad have been moving in recent months to release PoWs from their 1980-1988 war.

In April the Red Cross supervised an exchange in which 5,584 Iraqis and 319 Iranians were released. It was the first major swap since 1990, when each side freed around 40,000 captives from the other country.

But Iranian authorities said last month that some of the Iraqis released had refused to go back to Iraq, without disclosing their numbers.



Local activists and members of the international crew of the Greenpeace ship 'Sirius' protest peacefully Tuesday in Ankara against what Greenpeace says is the illegal operation of three coal-powered plants in an Aegean region called the deadly triangle (AFP photo)

## Israel's chief rabbis ask Pope to intervene over Auschwitz crosses

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel's chief rabbis asked the Pope on Tuesday to intervene in the growing controversy over crosses being erected outside the Auschwitz death camp in Poland.

Ashkenazi leader Israel Meir Lau and Sephardic rabbi Elyahu Bakshi-Doron sent a message to Pope John Paul II asking him to "work towards getting Poland to take down the crosses," the chief rabbinate in

Jerusalem said.

More than 100 crosses have been erected outside the camp, the latest last week by members of the Brotherhood of Pius X, a group with links to a controversial French fundamentalist bishop.

Catholic activists want to put up 152 wooden crosses outside the death camp to commemorate 152 Catholics killed there in 1941.

The effort has infuriated Jew-

ish groups worldwide, who argue the crosses contravene a ban on political, ideological or religious symbols near the site. More than one million Jews died at Auschwitz.

Both the state of Israel and the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem have asked that the crosses be removed.

The Polish primate, Cardinal Jozef Glemp, has also asked Catholics to refrain from erecting the crosses.

## Turkish police arrest 4 Kurds for bombing

ISTANBUL (AFP) — Turkish authorities have charged four separatist Kurdish rebels over a bomb attack here in early July that killed seven people and injured 118 others, police officials said Tuesday.

The four, arrested in recent police swoops, had confessed to planting the powerful bomb at the entrance of the historic Egyptian Bazaar, also known as the Spice Market, on July 7, they said.

The officials said the accused admitted being members of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), which has been waging a separatist war in Turkey's Southeast bordering Iran, Iraq and Syria since 1984.

Three of those killed in the blast were children aged between four and six, and the injured included 11 foreign tourists.

At the time of the incident, Turkish officials had said the explosion was caused by a gas leak, but a subsequent inquiry confirmed the presence of a bomb.

The PKK has also been blamed for three other bomb blasts in Istanbul since last December. A total of nine people were killed in those explosions.

More than 30,000 people have been killed in PKK-related violence in south-eastern Turkey since the group launched its armed campaign.

PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan has threatened to stage bomb attacks in large cities in retaliation for army operations against the PKK in the southeast.

## Sewage swamps Israel's Red Sea resort

EILAT (AP) — Beaches in Israel's Red Sea resort of Eilat remained closed Tuesday after a broken pipeline spewed raw sewage into the sea, raising e-coli bacteria to 50 times the allowed level.

Large amounts flowed into the sea after the main pipeline broke Saturday and the health ministry Monday ordered most of the beaches closed for the first time in the resort's history.

The sewage sent tourists scampering for hotel pools after it spilled onto the

city's main thoroughfare, Hatmarmim Street, a tourism plaza, the local airport and into the sea, which is known for its coral reefs.

Although the main was fixed Sunday, it leaked large amounts of sewage again Monday for three hours during a test and Hatmarmim Street was closed.

The health ministry said Tuesday the pipeline had not yet been fixed and the beaches would be closed for a few more days.

Eilat Mayor Gabi

Kadosh warned that the sewage was scaring away tourists, most of whom are Israelis at this time of the year.

"Until this incident, we have never been forced to close all the city's main beaches," Kadosh said.

"This will have serious implications for tourism in Eilat," Kadosh hopes to get the city nominated as next year's host for the Miss Universe pageant.

## Iraq says U.S. has changed tone over weapons crisis

BAGHDAD (AFP) — The United States has softened its tone towards Baghdad in the latest crisis over U.N. weapons inspections even though it remains hostile, an official Iraqi newspaper said Monday.

"The tone of the threats and declarations [of the United States] has changed radically compared to the language the American authorities used in previous crises," the ruling Baath party's Al Thawra said.

"We are no longer seeing a bitter political and military escalation and the United States is no longer talking of a crushing military hit. It seems the rage of threats and intimidation has not gripped the White House and Pentagon this time," the newspaper said.

But "America has not abandoned its hostility and its detestable arrogance," although it is "obvious that there is a change in style in its bearing and confrontation with Iraq."

The newspaper said this change was the result of a lack of international and Arab support for a recourse to the use

of force against Iraq and the repeated calls for a lifting of the embargo.

Public opinion in the United States is also against the use of military force to maintain the eight-year sanctions imposed after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait, Al Thawra said.

"But despite this change, what essentially interests the U.S. administration is still the perpetuation of the embargo, recently reiterated by U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright," it said.

"But Albright refuses to recognise that the serious changes in Arab and international attitudes towards Iraq and even in the United States will lead to an erosion and lifting of the embargo, whether Albright wants it or not."

Babel, a newspaper owned by President Saddam Hussein's elder son Uday, said Sunday that the United States was hoping to avoid a military confrontation with Iraq.

## UAE protests over Iranian drug claim

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has protested over a claim by Iranian television that it was helping the Taliban smuggle one tonne of opium a day, a source close to the foreign ministry said Tuesday.

Iran's charge d'affaires in Abu Dhabi, Mahmoud Imtiaz, was summoned to the foreign ministry Monday, where officials voiced a strong protest over the "unfounded

accusations" and demanded an official explanation, the source said.

The source said Iranian television on Thursday broadcast a programme accusing the Taliban of exporting one tonne of opium a day from Afghanistan through Dubai airport in the north of the UAE.

"These allegations are unfounded and threaten relations between the

two countries," the source said.

Iran and the UAE are already locked in a dispute of the ownership of three Gulf islands occupied by Iran since 1971.

Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and the UAE are the only countries to have recognised the Taliban militia as the legitimate government of Afghanistan.

## Egypt denies reports of Abu Nidal arrest

CAIRO (AP) — Egyptian security officials Tuesday denied that Abu Nidal had been arrested in Egypt, responding to news reports and several days of rumours that the one-time Palestinian guerrilla was in custody.

They also said that followers of Abu Nidal — the nom de guerre of Sabri Al Banna — had not been detained in Egypt.

The security officials spoke to the Associated Press on customary condition their names not be used. A similar denial was carried on Egypt's Middle East News Agency, quoting a security source who called the reports "untrue and baseless." The reports, by a foreign news agency Monday and the Arabic daily Al Hayat's Tuesday edition, also quoted unnamed sources.

They included comments by Egyptian and Palestinian officials denying any knowledge of such an arrest.

The U.S. State Department lists his group as "the most dangerous terrorist organisation in existence," blamed for killing 300 people and wounding 650 in 20 countries since 1973.

Rumours of Abu Nidal's alleged arrest in Egypt have been circulating in the Palestinian community in the West Bank and Gaza Strip as well as in Lebanon.

Some Palestinian sources said he was seized a month ago while coming from Libya. Others said followers of the leader were arrested but not the man himself. All the sources spoke on condition of anonymity.

Abu Nidal's prime targets were Israelis, but he was accused in recent years of becoming a hit man for various Arab regimes who backed him. He also murdered close allies of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat after he broke with Arafat in the mid-1970s, accusing the PLO chief of weakness in confronting Israel.

Abu Nidal — the name means "Father of Struggle" in Arabic — is 61 and was born in Jaffa, now on Israel's Mediterranean coast. He has operated from Iraq, Syria and Libya.

His group was blamed for the Dec. 27, 1985, twin attacks on ticket counters of the Israeli airline El Al at Rome and Vienna airports. The seven attackers killed 18 people and wounded 120 others.

Abu Nidal also has been accused of the bombings of a Pan Am jetliner on the ground at Rome airport in 1973 that killed 32 passengers and of a TWA jet over the Aegean Sea the following year that killed all 88 people aboard.

His group also has been blamed for a long string of attacks on Western diplomats and Jewish worshippers stretching from Europe to the Middle East.

In Gaza, Arafat was asked about reports of the alleged arrests and replied: "I have no information on that." In Israel, David Bar Ilan, a senior adviser to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, had a similar comment.

"We have no knowledge of it," he said.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 4773111-19

#### PROGRAMME TWO

15:10 ..... Mr. Bogus Show  
15:30 Children's Programme  
16:00 ..... Halfway to Cross the Galaxy and Turn Left  
16:00 ..... The Album Show  
17:00 ..... Doc. — Ushuaia  
18:15 ..... Acapulco Bay  
19:00 ..... Le Journal  
19:15 Science Magazine — E-M6  
19:30 ..... News headlines  
19:35 ..... Comedy — Keeping Mum  
20:00 Doc. — Envoy Special Magazine  
20:30 ..... Faces and Places  
21:10 ..... Kung Fu  
22:00 ..... News in English  
22:30 ..... Chicago Hope  
00:10 ..... End of T.X.

#### PRAYER TIMES

04:34 ..... Fajr  
05:57 ..... (Sunrise) Dhuha  
12:39 ..... Dhuhr  
16:18 ..... 'Asr  
19:21 ..... Maghreb  
20:45 ..... 'Isha

#### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Sweifeh, Tel. 5920740  
Assemblies of God Church Tel.  
4632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel.  
4624590  
Terra Sancta Church Tel.  
4622366

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Anglican Church Tel.  
4624853/4624811.  
St. Athanasius Syrian Orthodox  
Church Tel. 771751.  
Amman International Church  
Tel. 865597  
German-speaking Evangelical  
Congregation Tel. 5688404  
The Evangelical Local Church  
in Amman Tel. 811295  
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter  
Day Saints Tel. 4654932  
St. John the Baptist at De la  
Salle College Tel. 5661757  
Church of the Annunciation  
Tel. 4637440  
Greek Orthodox Church Tel.  
4646138  
Church of Presentation, Sweifeh  
Tel. 5920146  
The United Catholic Church  
Tel. 4634757  
The English-Language  
Catholic Parish Tel. 4613190  
Evangelical Free Church Tel.  
892679  
The Baptist Church Tel.  
4628052  
The Armenian Catholic  
Church Tel. 771331  
The Armenian Orthodox  
Church Tel. 775261

with winds, northwesterly  
light to moderate. In Aqaba, it  
will be hot, winds northerly  
moderate and sea calm.

Amman ..... 22/35  
Aqaba ..... 28/41  
Deserts ..... 20/38  
Jordan Valley ..... 27/41

Yesterday's high temperatures:  
Amman 36, Aqaba 41  
Humidity readings: Amman  
29 per cent, Aqaba 31 per  
cent.

Following are the highest temperatures  
expected today in  
the following areas:

Ajloun ..... 30  
Jerash ..... 36  
Um Qays ..... 35  
Madaba ..... 36  
Petra ..... 36  
Dead Sea ..... 42

USEFUL  
TELEPHONE  
NUMBERS  
NIGHT DUTY

Dr. Abbas Al Hakim ..... 4885446  
Dr. Arafat Ashhab ..... 5602507  
Dr. Ayman Nishabeh ..... 4875748  
Dr. Jamal Jharah ..... 5347351  
Firas pharmacy ..... 5661912  
Al Asma pharmacy ..... 4637055  
Al Salam pharmacy ..... 4636730  
Yacoub pharmacy ..... 4644945

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the  
Department of Meteorology  
Relative hot weather conditions  
will continue to persist

Shmeisani pharmacy 4637660  
Najmeh pharmacy ..... 4623672  
Najib pharmacy ..... 5347632  
IRBID:  
Dr. Mohammad Shar ..... 7100588  
Al Quds pharmacy ..... (—)  
ZARQA:  
Dr. Ali Daghumi ..... 911466  
Khalifeh pharmacy ..... 985417

RU Flight Information 44-53200  
Queen Alia Int. Airport 44-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
The Arab Centre for Heart and  
Special Surgery ..... 5921199  
The Islamic Abadi ..... 5666131/7  
Hussein Medical Centre Tel.  
5856856  
Luznia ..... 4630195  
Khalidi Maternity ..... 4642816  
Akileh Maternity ..... 464241/2  
Jabal Amman Maternity  
4642362  
Malhas, J. Amman ..... 4636140  
Palestine, Shmeisani ..... 5607071  
Shmeisani Hospital ..... 5669131  
University Hospital ..... 5353444  
Al-Muasher Hospital 5667279  
Al-Ahli, Abadi ..... 5664164/6  
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 4777101/3  
Al-Bashur ..... 4775111/26  
Army, Marka ..... 4891611/15  
Queen Alia Hospital 5602240/50  
Amal Hospital ..... 5674155  
ZARQA:  
Zarqa Govt. Hospital  
..... (09)983323  
Zarqa National Hospital  
..... (09)900560  
Ibn Sina Hospital ..... (09)986732  
Al Hikma Modern Hospital  
..... (09)99099  
IRBID:  
Princess Basma Hospital  
..... (02)275555  
Greek Catholic Hospital  
..... (02)272275

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre ..... 4637111  
Civil Defence Department 5661111  
Civil Defence Immediate Res-  
cue ..... 4630341  
Civil Defence Emergency ..... 199  
Rescue Police 192.4621111.4637777  
Fire Brigade ..... 4617101  
Blood Bank ..... 4775121  
Highway Police ..... 4896390  
Traffic Police ..... 4896390  
Public Security Dept. .... 4630321  
Hotel Complaints ..... 5605800  
Price Complaints ..... 5661176  
Water & Sewage Complaints 4897487  
Amman Municipality Com-  
plaints ..... 4787111  
Telephone Information (directo-  
ry assistance) ..... 121  
Overseas Calls ..... 010230  
Central Amman Telephone  
Repairs ..... 4623101  
Abadi Tel. Repairs ..... 5661101  
Jordan Television ..... 4773111  
Radio Jordan ..... 4774111  
Water Authority ..... 5680100  
J. Electricity Authority 5815615  
Electric Power Co. .... 4636381

17:15 ..... Tel Aviv (add) (RJ)  
20:10 ..... Colombo (RJ)  
20:35 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
21:00 ..... New Delhi  
(RJ)  
21:05 ..... Riyadh, Dhahran (RJ)  
21:10 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
21:15 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)  
21:20 Dhahran, Bombay (RJ)  
21:45 ..... Bahrain (RJ)  
22:05 ..... Dubai, Muscat (RJ)  
23:45 ..... Sanaa (RJ)

Other Flights

06:35 ..... Larnaca (CY)  
07:30 ..... Paris (AF)  
09:20 ..... London (BA)  
11:30 ..... Ta'iz, Sanaa (IY)  
12:45 ..... Kuwait (KU)  
14:00 ..... Jeddah (SV)  
14:15 ..... Cairo (MS)  
15:00 ..... Bahrain, Muscat (GF)  
15:10 ..... Tunis (TU)  
15:50 ..... Vienna (OS)  
17:20 ..... Sharjah (AH)  
17:20 ..... Dubai (EK)  
20:00 ..... Beirut (ME)  
20:30 Abu Dhabi, Karachi (PK)  
23:55 ..... Beirut (ME)  
00:40 Damascus, Amsterdam (KL)  
03:45 ..... Beirut, Athens (OA)

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ)  
Flights  
07:30 ..... Damascus (RJ)  
09:00 ..... Jeddah (RJ)  
09:55 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
10:45 ..... Doha, Bahrain (RJ)  
12:05 ..... Larnaca (RJ)  
15:55 ..... New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
17:30 ..... Madrid (RJ)  
19:10 ..... London, Vienna (RJ)  
19:25 ..... Frankfurt, Berlin (RJ)  
19:30 ..... Tel Aviv (add) (RJ)  
19:40 ..... Rome (RJ)

DEPARTURES

09:00 ..... Larnaca (RJ)  
09:00 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)  
11:00 ..... Rome (RJ)  
12:45 ..... Istanbul (RJ)  
13:25 ..... London (RJ)

00:15 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
01:05 ..... Cairo (RJ)

03:14:11

Princess Haya Hospital

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA  
INTERNATIONAL  
AIRPORT

This information is supplied  
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mation department at the  
Queen Alia International Air-  
port Tel. (44)53200 where it  
should always be verified.  
Information on other flights  
are supplied on phone 44  
(52700) or 44(53250).

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Home

Educational  
new teachBy Mohammad Ben Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Ministry of Education is in the process of selecting 1,200 new teachers out of 15,000 applications for the 1998-1999 academic year, an official said Tuesday.

Suleiman Abu Zeid, head of the ministry's personnel department, said the new appointments, to be announced soon, will fill vacancies vacated by recent appointments in government schools. Approximately 300 of the total 1,200 appointments will be made in public schools. The list of the 1,200 appointments will be published.

Parties, I  
discussBy Jordan Times  
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Professional associations and opposition groups were scheduled to hold a meeting on Tuesday to discuss their differences at the National Conference for Reform and Salvation, which was delayed a month.

The current chairperson of the Council of Presidents of Jordan's 13 syndicates, Hassan Jabber, told the Jordan Times that the meeting would focus on the reform of the confederation and the drafting of the National Salvation Plan, an improbable coalition of parties, ranging from

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American Centre,  
Shouban, on Thurs-  
day Aug. 20 at 5:00  
pm.

Children's film  
"Black Beauty" at the  
British Council,  
Jabal Amman at 6:00  
pm.

FILMS

Exhibition of  
brought iron furni-  
ture by Jordanian  
artist Salim Al Ban-  
dara at Al Baidar Hall,  
Jabal Zaman village  
Tel. 5862531, until  
Sept. 17.

Summer display  
of products at the  
Jordan Design and  
Trade Centre/Noor Al  
Hussein Foundation,  
off Wadi Saqra (Tel.  
586-9141/2), until  
Aug. 31.

"Miniatures in  
Environment" and  
"Faded Nasrallah at  
Orfali Art Gallery,  
off Uthaina, until  
Aug. 25 (Tel.  
553932).

EXHIBITIONS



## Education ministry to select 1,200 new teachers for next school year

By Mohammad Ben Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Ministry of Education is in the process of selecting 1,200 new teachers out of 13,000 applications for the 1998-99 scholastic year, an official said Tuesday.

Suleiman Abu Zeid, head of the ministry's personnel department, said the new appointments, to be announced soon, will fill positions vacated by recent retirements in government schools. Approximately 930,000 of the total 1.5 million students between the ages of six and 18 are enrolled in public schools.

"The list of the 1,200 appointments will be published by the Ministry of Education within the next few days," Zeid told the Jordan Times.

Despite the new recruitments, the cash-tight ministry remains in need of more teachers at its 2,750 schools across the country, officials said.

New government measures to reduce the inflated civil service by offering early retirement packages and other incentives have exempted the ministries of Health and Education because of their basic social roles.

About 60 per cent of the country's 200,000 civil servants work for the Ministry of Education.

In order to prevent possible defections by disgruntled teachers, the ministry is now giving priority to 12 governors to hire locals.

"If they cannot find enough qualified personnel within the governorate, then applications from the region get priority," said another official.

"If applicants from the governorate or the region (north, middle and south) do not meet the required qualifications, then the ministry will accept other applications and then select candidates," he added.

The Ministry of Education has for years been under massive pressure from many teachers who take sabbaticals for years to work in Gulf schools,

which offer more lucrative salaries.

They are encouraged to do so because current civil service legislation secures the position of any teacher until he/she returns, while the Ministry of Education fills teaching jobs on temporary contracts.

"From a financial point of view, this is feasible for the ministry because teachers working on temporary contracts earn around JD100 per month, while the ministry pays JD170 to full time personnel on regular contracts," said Bassam Ahmad, a teacher working on a temporary contract. "But it is the students who suffer most because of such discontinuities."

## Parties, professional associations discuss National Conference's delay

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Professional associations and opposition parties were scheduled to hold a meeting on Tuesday to discuss their differences over the National Conference for Reform and Salvation, which was delayed last month.

The current chairperson of the Council of Presidents of Jordan's 13 syndicates, Hassan Jaber, told the Jordan Times that the meeting would focus on the time frame for the conference and the drafting of the National Salvation Plan.

An improbable coalition of 13 parties, ranging from

the Islamic Action Front (IAF) to the Jordan Communist Party and the pan-Arabists of Al Mustaqbal, was forced last month to postpone the much-awaited National Conference under pressure from the 80,000-member professional associations.

Protesting that the eight-month postponement equalled an actual cancellation of the conference, party leaders were nonetheless forced to give in to pressures by the associations, accounting for 60 per cent of conference participants.

Jaber said yesterday's meeting was held to "explain the associations' position" that the National Conference needed thorough and lengthy preparatory work in order to achieve its goal and produce a comprehensive alternative platform to government policies.

The Council of Presidents of the professional associations set up a special committee to open a dialogue with the parties. It includes the presidents of the Jordan Engineers Association, Hosni Abu Gheida, the Jordan Bar Association, Hussein Mjalli, the Jordan Agricultural Engineers Association, Hassan Jaber, the veterinarians' association, Housam Ammoudi, and the Jordan

Medical Association, Bassem Dajani.

One-hundred and fifty representatives of civil society institutions launched the National Conference on June 13.

Opposition parties, professional associations, student unions, as well as a variety of other civil society institutions and independent personalities, were expected to agree on a common platform including halting normalisation with Israel, limiting privatisation and economic liberalisation, and strengthening ties with Syria and Iraq at the expense of the Kingdom's relations with the West.

## Cabinet decides to proceed with JTC privatisation plan

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Tuesday decided to proceed with the privatisation of the Jordan Telecommunications Company (JTC) and allow the JTC to obtain licences for cellular phones in accordance with proper procedures, provided they receive prior approval.

During Tuesday's regular session, which was chaired by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, the Cabinet assigned the Telecommunications Regulatory Corporation the power to grant the JTC a license to provide international telecommunication services.

Under the Cabinet decision, the JTC financial advisor will review the company's financial evaluation in light of the restructuring. It called on the JTC to finalise the subscription to a \$28 million optic fibre project, aimed at linking Jordan with international telecommunication lines.

The decision also called for amending the costs of local and international calls and for increasing the number of operating telephone lines to 600,000, up from 450,000, by the end of this year.

In a media briefing after the session, Minister of Information Abdullah Ensour said Majali instructed the ministers of Youth, Planning, and Public Works and Housing to speed up work on the construction of Al Karak Sport Centre.

Ensour said the prime minister instructed all government offices to coordinate with local governors on the issue of appointments.

The Cabinet referred four draft laws to the Legislation Bureau for study. The draft laws are the Road Fund draft, the Housing and Urban Development Corporation draft, a draft on the King Abdullah Educational Hospital at the Jordan University of Science and Technology, and a draft on the Civil Servants Consumers Corporation.

The minister said the Ma'an Court of Appeals will resume operation as of August 22.

Ensour also voiced hope that the regulation on unifying government laborato-

ries, which has been endorsed by a Royal Decree, would be implemented.

The information minister told journalists that the Cabinet endorsed the minutes of the Joint Jordanian-Romanian Committee meeting and endorsed a memorandum of understanding on scientific and technological cooperation signed between the Jordanian Higher Council for Science and Technology and the Romanian Ministry of Research and Technology.

The Cabinet also endorsed an agreement on administrative cooperation signed between Jordan and Algeria covering the exchange of customs legislation.

## JPA issues statement rejecting draft press law

By Amy Henderson  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordan Press Association yesterday issued a disheartened statement on the Senate's endorsement of the press and publications law, now awaiting a Royal Decree before it goes into effect.

"The JPA renews its absolute rejection of the press and publications law approved by Parliament (on Monday)," the statement said. "The board would like to express its disappointment and feelings of bitterness after its proposals and concerns about the law were ignored during the debate in the House."

In the full Senate's first reading of the draft on Monday, an overwhelming majority of the 36 senators present at Monday's session voted in favour of the draft, with only eight voting against.

Neither the Senate or its Legal Committee made any further amendments to those introduced at the Lower House. The JPA submitted a list of proposals to both houses of Parliament during the weeks-long debate on the government's proposed draft at the Lower House. In spite of drastic amendments introduced at the Lower House, the finished product fell far short of expectations. The law grants courts the right to "legally" close newspapers for the first time in the country's history.

"The board stresses that it will challenge this law with all democratic means at its disposal to consolidate press freedoms and freedom of expression guaranteed by our Constitution."

But journalists now feel there is no recourse against the law.

"It's now a waiting game," said an editor at one of the country's oldest dailies. "We had hoped for a law we could live with, but this is a law introduced to deal with the present stage. Any change in our political atmosphere would require a change in the law, so the law will survive as long as our political atmosphere does."

## JMA forms commission to investigate alleged violations by public sector doctors

By Suha Ma'ayeh  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Private and public sector physicians are at odds over the latter's alleged violation of rules barring them from taking part-time jobs after official working hours.

The Jordan Medical Association (JMA) recently asked a five-member commission of veteran doctors to look into the issue and to set terms to ensure that violations do not continue.

Mahmoud Taher, head of the Private Hospitals Society, said allegations of public-sector doctors "moonlighting" have been blown out of proportion. He said the number of these doctors, mainly from the army-run Royal Medical Services (RMS), taking part-time jobs in the private sector is less than 10.

"But unfortunately, they have an outstanding reputation and are very good... That is why there is a fuss," Taher said.

Doctors at the Ministry of Health, the RMS and Jordan University Hospital said they take outside jobs in private hospitals and clinics, sometimes operating under false names, to earn extra money.

Ministry of Health doctors also complained that RMS doctors receive much better incentives and pensions than public sector doctors.

These discrepancies, a simmering point for decades, led public physicians to stage protests in 1989 to push for more incentives and for permission to work in private clinics after their official working hours end.

"All public-sector physicians have an incentive plan... the best one is offered to those in the army hospitals and the worst is to those working in the Ministry of Health," said Zuhair Malhas, rapporteur of the JMA committee.

"There, doctors work under tremendous pressure and their pay and incentive plan is meagre," he told the Jordan Times.

"They should raise their allowances or at least make them equal to those of RMS and Jordan University Hospital staff, who have a much better incentive plan," said Malhas.

Despite the salary gap between private and public sector doctors, some in the health care community said public physicians who take outside jobs are far better off than private doctors, who have massive operating costs.

Expenditures such as rent, water and electricity, clerical staff, plus licensing fees, "are part and parcel of the private sector... public sector doctors do not have them," Malhas explained.

He also said the committee wanted "to devise a formula to ensure fairness to all, to look into reasons behind this phenomenon and to collect data about the number of doctors to ensure that the issue is not exaggerated."

According to rules in place since 1965, Ministry of Health doctors are banned from opening private clinics and from taking part-time jobs after their official working hours end.

The rule was prompted by efforts to achieve equality between Ministry of Health doctors, who were allowed to work in the private sector after their shifts ended, and army doctors, who were

banned from doing so. Some doctors, like Taher, believe that the market could be regulated if public doctors received permission to work in the private sector.

Malhas said the committee also wanted to determine why the 1965 rules were not being enforced. The names of public physicians have been listed at some private hospitals, he said.

"There is laxity [in applying the rules], and we would like to find out why," Malhas said. "If we can't protect the private sector, it will deteriorate."

Meanwhile, Ministry of Health doctors have stepped up calls for immediate action, such as giving them a 35 per cent increase in their salaries for working extra hours or allowing them to take extra jobs in the private sector.

They are also demanding that their pensions be raised by two-thirds.

"We want the government to allow us to work in private offices after official working hours or to raise our salaries," one public doctor said. On average, the salaries of Ministry of Health doctors who have worked for 15 years do not exceed JD400 a month.

— The Financial Times

## Parliamentary delegation returns from official visit to Iran

AMMAN (Petra) — The speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, Sa'd Hayel Srour, and an accompanying parliamentary delegation returned Tuesday to Amman following a three-day official visit to Iran.

During the visit, Srour and his delegation met with Iranian President Mohammad Khatami, former President Hashemi Rafsanjani, parliament speaker Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri, and

other officials. In a statement upon his return, Srour voiced satisfaction with the outcome of his visit to Tehran, saying that he stressed Jordan's interest in building bilateral relations based on cooperation and mutual respect.

Srour and his delegation discussed with the Iranian officials bilateral relations in various fields and the establishment of an Islamic parliamentary union. Talks also touched upon issues of common concern, including the Middle East peace process, inter-Islamic relations and the role of Islamic parliaments in enhancing parliamentary relations.

Iranian officials expressed appreciation for Jordan's historic role in the upkeep and restoration of holy places in Jerusalem and its efforts to maintain its Islamic identity.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

**Prince Ra'd meets with PSD director**

AMMAN (Petra) — HRH Prince Ra'd Bin Zeid Tuesday met with the director of the Public Security Department, Nassouh Muheiddin, with whom he discussed road accidents and issues related to traffic safety. Prince Ra'd praised the efforts made by the Traffic Department in monitoring traffic and preventing violations causing injuries and deaths. Prince Ra'd called for further improving and developing training and rehabilitation programmes for traffic police and the special programmes designed for drivers who record the highest number of points.

**One killed in accident**

AMMAN (Petra) — One person was killed and 15 others were injured as a result of a road accident involving a medium-size bus and a tourist car carrying two passengers. Public Security Department sources said Tuesday.

**Troops leave for Bosnia**

AMMAN (Petra) — A new security force group leaves today for Bosnia to join the U.N. peace keeping forces stationed there. Public Security Director Nassouh Muheiddin said.

## Where Arab Bank chief Shoman goes, others follow

By Roula Khalaf

THE FIRST stop on the road to investment in the Palestinian territories is often the Amman office of Abdulmajed Shoman.

Enlisting the financial support of the head of the Amman-based Arab Bank group, one of the largest institutions in the Middle East, has been considered key to the success of projects and wooing other investors. Once Mr. Shoman is signed on, even with a symbolic stake, other wealthy Palestinians dutifully follow.

As head of the bank that has played a significant part in Palestinian history, the 85-year-old Mr. Shoman has naturally assumed the role of patriarch of the Palestinian diaspora. But his investments in Palestine are almost all through the bank and are driven as much by emotional attachment as by a fiery ambition to stretch Arab Bank's reach as far as he can.

His father founded the bank in Jerusalem in 1930, and the family continues to own about 20 per cent. After 60 years with the bank, Mr. Shoman still spends

his weekends and holidays in the office. Surrounded by a cluster of bank memorabilia and leather panelled bullet-proof walls, he presses the dozens of buttons on his telephone to check on his branches around the world.

This network, making up the only truly pan-Arab bank, extends through the Gulf and North Africa and stretches as far as China and Australia. It has followed Arab communities across continents but also opened branches or subsidiaries to help foreign business deal with the Arab World.

Those who know him say Mr. Shoman has transferred his yearning for the land he lost in Palestine into a near obsession with building the Arab Bank group, an institution with \$17 billion in assets. The Arab-Israeli conflict has haunted Arab Bank. It was forced to move its headquarters to Jordan in 1950, two years after the state of Israel was established. "In 1967, when the Israelis took Jerusalem, they took the money from the bank and returned some of it only recently. We closed all our

branches then and refused to reopen during the occupation."

Arab Bank became the bank of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, which is still a depositor. The Shomans — the bank was run by his father until 1974 — became the principal financiers of the Palestinian diaspora, helping merchants restart businesses in exile.

Mr. Shoman insists he is not a politician but he has his own ideas about peace and has had his quarrels with Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader. Opposed to the 1993 Oslo peace accords between Israelis and Palestinians and the subsequent Jordanian peace deal with Israel, Mr. Shoman insists: "You do not negotiate something that is yours; you fight for it, through every means."

Still, after Oslo, Arab Bank returned to Palestinian territory to become the biggest bank, with 18 branches. Last year, it also set up the Arab Palestinian Investment Bank and is an investor in a group developing hotels and factories and investing in telecommunications.

But as the peace process has faltered, sinking with it the Palestinian economy, it has become harder for Mr. Shoman to reconcile his investment objectives with the over-conservative banking style that has characterised Arab Bank since its inception. Inside the territories, Arab Bank is facing criticism for not lending enough.

The bank's prudent style is one thing Mr. Shoman will never sacrifice although it has earned Arab Bank a rather dull reputation. As one analyst put it: "The bank will never set the world on fire." But it has also allowed Mr. Shoman to claim that in spite of the region's volatility, the first and only run on the bank dates back to World War II. "Since then, people take money out of other banks during crisis and deposit it with us," he says.

Mr. Shoman joined the bank in 1936, after studying at New York University and doing a stint with what was then Chase National Bank. His father a demanding man, who had started out as a ladieswear door-to-door salesman in New York. He forced his

son to leave law school and study banking.

Mr. Shoman seems to have inherited the tough and stubborn personality.

He has cut links with his younger son for a marriage he disapproved of and because of a lack of interest in the family bank.

Mr. Shoman's only distractions from banking are a taste for fine clothes, a passion for baseball and helping to run the lives of his grandchildren. He personally finances their education.

Mr. Shoman's conservative management style has made the bank highly dependent on him but it has also kept the loan book healthy. Although not highly profitable, the bank's return on average assets increased from 0.99 per cent in 1994 to 1.35 per cent last year.

Mr. Shoman says times have changed. He no longer approves every loan, although he has the final say on many important decisions. His brother and his son run the bank on a day-to-day basis and both are prime candidates to succeed him.

He insists he can be contradicted, as in the bank's recent decision to solicit credit ratings. "I am against it. We don't need it but they decided and I had to go along," he says. "I am not a dictator."

The ratings will raise the profile of the institution, which is quoted on the Amman stock exchange, among foreign investors. The move is part of a global marketing drive to give the bank a younger, more vigorous image and help it face the challenge of a new generation of depositors who may be less loyal to Arab Bank than their parents and grandparents.

Foreign involvement in the bank is also a source of anxiety because it might bring in Israeli investors, which Mr. Shoman desperately wants to keep at bay. He is said to track closely through Jordanian brokers the buyers of every share, and questions institutional investors about the origin of their funds, bluntly informing them of his disapproval of any Israeli connection.

— The Financial Times

## What's going on

### FILMS

\* "Flipper" at the American Centre, Abdoun, on Thursday Aug. 20 at 5:00 p.m.

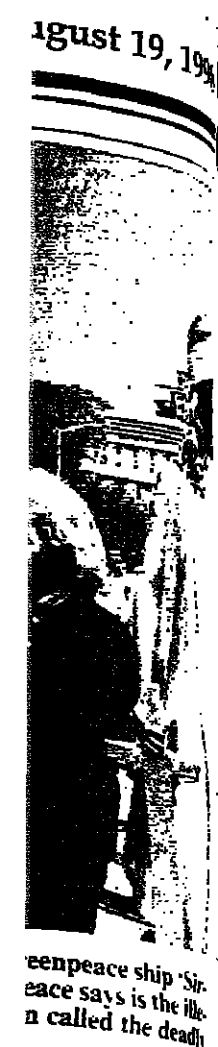
\* Children's film "Black Beauty" at the British Council, Jabal Amman at 6:00 p.m.

### EXHIBITIONS

\* Exhibition of wrought iron furniture by Jordanian artist Salim Al Baidar Hall, Kan Zaman village (Tel. 5862531), until Sept. 17.

\* Summer display of products at the Jordan Design and Trade Centre/Noor Al Hussein Foundation, off Wadi Saqra (Tel. 569-9141/2), until Aug. 31.

\* "Miniatures in Humanities and Environment" by Walid Nasrallah at Orfali Art Gallery, Um Utheina, until Aug. 25 (Tel. 5526932).



Pope crosses

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been blamed... Western... stretching from... asked about... replied "I... In Israel... to Prince... had a similar... edge of it," he said.

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...Riyadh... ... ... ... ...

...Calcutta... ... ... ... ...

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...Dubai... ... ... ... ...

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...Beirut... ... ... ... ...



## Kosovo Albanians reject Serb offers in talks

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia (AFP) — Kosovo Albanian negotiators rejected Serb offers to resume talks Tuesday on the future of the embattled Kosovo province for as long as Belgrade's forces remain there.

The Kosovo Albanians' top negotiator Fehmi Agani said in a letter that Belgrade had failed to give assurances of an end to the violence in the war-torn province and of a withdrawal of its forces.

Serb negotiators had invited the ethnic Albanian team to resume talks in the Kosovo capital Pristina at 2:00 p.m. (1200 GMT) Tuesday.

The Serb team turned up in the capital, expecting the talks to go ahead.

Agani met earlier Tuesday with U.S. mediator and ambassador to Macedonia Christopher Hill. Kosovo's ethnic Albanian political leader Ibrahim Rugova was also present.

The Kosovo negotiator said in his letter that Hill would determine when and where talks would resume.

The U.S. mediator Monday met in Belgrade with Serb President Milan Milutinovic, both men con-

cluding that a solution could be found by "political means" and that "the dialogue should be continued."

Kosovo Albanian separatists suspended the talks in late May following a fierce Serbian crackdown on pro-independence rebels in the southern Serbian province, whose autonomy was revoked by Belgrade in 1989.

Over 500 people, among them 62 policemen, have been killed since fighting began in the province in late February, and tens of thousands of civilians have been forced to flee their homes.

## UNICEF Kosovo team detained on charges of medical handouts to terrorists

GENEVA (AFP) — The U.N. children's agency said Tuesday that police in southwest Kosovo had detained members of a mobile team after accusing them of handing out medicines to terrorists in a paediatric hospital.

The mobile team, travelling in the Suva Reka and Berisha mountain areas in southwest Kosovo, was stopped 13 times over a 250-kilometre stretch last Thursday.

UNICEF spokesman Patrick McCormick told journalists.

The same team was detained by police after distributing medicines to the paediatric wing of the hospital in the southwest town of Djakovica, he said.

"They were accused of distributing the medicines to terrorists," said McCormick, who denied that any humanitarian aid had been diverted to military means.

"If these supplies were distributed to children in a paediatric ward in the hospital, I hardly think these recipients could be described as terrorists," he said.

The UNICEF group was allowed to leave the town after one hour.

Separately, the U.N. refugee agency's assistant high commissioner, Soren Jessen-Petersen, left Tuesday for a five-day assessment trip to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, whose government is under pressure to resume talks over Serbia's strife-torn southern province.

He plans to visit Belgrade, Podgorica in Montenegro, Kosovo's main city Pristina as well as "all affected areas" throughout the province, especially around Pec, where intense fighting has occurred in the last week.

The official is to meet with federal government officials. President Milo

Djukanovic of Montenegro and Kosovo political leader Ibrahim Rugova.

The purpose of his visit is to "see the situation of displacement and the level of destruction of villages and to urge authorities for stability and security so that UNHCR could better assist those who have fled their homes," a spokeswoman, Maki Shinohara said.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees was continuing to track down around 20,000 people displaced in the Pec area of western Kosovo, she said.

More than 500 people have been killed and more than 230,000 people have fled their homes since the Serb offensive against ethnic Albanian separatists was launched in February.

Albanian fighters have suffered a series of blows after Serb forces stepped up their offensive last month to secure major roads connecting Pristina with the west and south of the province.

## India's top court raps government over transfer of graft official

NEW DELHI (AFP) — In another setback for India's beleaguered government, the Supreme Court Tuesday sharply criticised the transfer of a top anti-corruption official, and warned it might overrule the move.

M.K. Bechariah, who heads the finance ministry's anti-corruption department, was transferred last week to the post of New Delhi transport commissioner.

The move provoked a storm of protest, with critics accusing the coalition government of seeking to placate a key regional ally, whose leader has been fighting corruption charges directed by Bechariah.

"The transfer at this stage is a very, very distressing factor. We are extremely bothered by this," the three-member panel of Supreme Court judges said.

"In the event that the transfer of Bechariah takes effect ... it shall be subject to further orders of this court," they warned.

Although his transfer was announced last week, Bechariah will only take up his new post Wednesday, due to a time delay in shifting other civil servants around.

The Supreme Court's comments are bound to embarrass the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP, Indian People's Party), the dom-

inant member in the multi-party coalition, which has already come in for considerable criticism in the press over the reshuffle.

However, BJP Vice President Janta Krishnamurthy insisted the party's decision would eventually be vindicated.

"When we place our view before the court and all the facts are known, I am confident the court will understand our position," Krishnamurthy said.

The Supreme Court statement came after Bechariah's move was brought to the judges' attention during a public interest hearing involving a long-running banking scandal.

The counsel for the petitioners argued that such transfers would "totally demoralise honest officers, who are handling sensitive cases."

Counsel pointed out that Bechariah was handling foreign exchange violations against "very important persons," and was a member of a government panel charged with gathering intelligence "on the nexus between politicians, executive and the mafia."

During the hearing, the judges harangued the government's counsel over the transfer affair.

"You must know what exactly has happened, why is he transferred at this stage? Why is it



Bosnian Croats (left-right, seated) Drago Josipovic, Vladko Kupreskic, Mirjan Kupreskic and Zoran Kupreskic, flanked by U.N. guards on the second day of their trial at the Yugoslav war crimes tribunal in The Hague. These four together with Bosnian Croats Vladimir Santic and Dragan Papic are accused of taking part in a notorious 1993 massacre in the central Bosnian town of Ahmici of more than 100 ethnic Muslims (Reuters photo)

## British soldier tells court of Ahmici killings

THE HAGUE (R) — A former British U.N. peacekeeper told the Yugoslavia war crimes tribunal Tuesday how Bosnian Croat troops slaughtered defenceless Muslims in Ahmici village, central Bosnia, then set fire to their homes.

Colonel Bryan Watters, commanding officer of the 1st Battalion of the Cheshire Regiment, was giving evidence on the second day of the war crimes trial of six Bosnian Croats. The suspects have denied participating in the Ahmici massacre of April 16, 1993.

Around 120 civilians died and not a single Muslim home was spared in the assault, allegedly by troops of the Croatian Defence Council (HVO). Some victims were burned in their homes, others were picked off by snipers as they fled.

"This was a ruthlessly efficient military operation," said Watters, who entered Ahmici with a small contingent of British United Nations troops six days after the killings.

Prosecutors say the attack was part of a coordinated campaign to drive Muslims out of the Lasva Valley region.

Muslim neighbourhoods in the nearby town of Vitez and several other villages were targeted on the same day, but the most vicious assault was reserved for

mainly Muslim Ahmici.

"Ahmici was used as an example of what would happen if the Muslims did not leave, an example of terror," Watters said.

Asked by prosecutor Albert Moskowitz if he believed the Bosnian Croat military wanted to "cleanse" the area of Muslims, Watters replied: "I was in absolutely no doubt."

He guided the court through photographs and video clips of Ahmici, the burned-out shells of homes in stark contrast to the lush hills. A toppled minaret rested on the rubble of a mosque.

"It was shocking, an act of sacrilege against a religious building," Watters said.

A cluster of Croat homes, including those of some of the accused, were unscathed.

Elsewhere the destruction of the mainly Muslim village was absolute. Corpses of sheep and cattle littered the fields, crops and silage containers were destroyed, Watters said.

On the steps of one house, he pointed to the twisted and charred remains of an adult and a child. In the burned ruins of the cellar, Watters said there were more bodies.

"(The HVO) made sure there was nothing (for the Muslims) to come back to," he told the court.

Watters is the first prosecution witness in the trial of Zoran Kupreskic, Mirjan Kupreskic, Vladko Kupreskic, Vladimir Santic, Drago Josipovic and Dragan Papic.

The six charged — including two brothers and their cousin — were allegedly HVO troops. They have pleaded not guilty to 19 counts of crimes against humanity and violations of the customs of war. If found guilty, they face up to life imprisonment.

The Ahmici indictment is not the first to deal with alleged atrocities committed in the Lasva Valley.

Bosnian Croat political leader Dario Kordic and Bosnian Croat general Tihomir Blaskic have both pleaded not guilty to charges they bore leadership responsibility for attacks on Muslims in the region.

The International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia began work in 1993 to punish those responsible for a wave of ethnic cleansing which swept Bosnia between its three once-entwined communities — Muslims, Orthodox Serbs and Roman Catholics — following the breakup of Yugoslavia.

It has 26 men in its detention unit in Scheveningen. Other 30 publicly accused are still at large.

## Former Tiananmen student leaders appeal for colleague's release

BEIJING (AP) — Two leaders of the Tiananmen Square democracy movement have asked Chinese authorities to release a colleague arrested last month for forming an opposition party, a rights group reported Tuesday.

In an open letter to prosecutors, Ma Shaofang and Yang Tao contended Wang Youcai openly and legally tried to register the China Democracy Party, the Hong Kong-based Information Centre of Human Rights and Democratic Movement in China reported.

"This was not a conspiracy to incite, much less a subversion of government power," the Information Centre quoted the letter as saying.

Wang was formally charged two weeks ago

with subversion, a crime China has used in the past three years to prosecute high-profile dissidents.

Wang and two other democracy campaigners announced the party's formation on June 25, the day U.S. President Bill Clinton began a nine-day China tour. In mid-July, a week after Clinton's departure, Chinese police detained Wang and 11 others in connection with the party. Only Wang remains in custody.

In their letter, Ma Shaofang and Yang Tao pointed out that Wang's arrest is inconsistent with Chinese President Jiang Zemin's pledge, repeated to Clinton, that China will sign a major U.N. human rights document this fall.

They also noted that

China needs more public supervision of authorities if the government hopes to continue the successes of its 20-year-old economic reform drive.

Wang's China Democracy Party was an attempt to push forward that supervision, they said.

Wang, Ma and Yang were all student organisers of the massive democracy demonstrations that clogged Beijing's Tiananmen Square for seven weeks in 1989. After the military quelled the protests, all three were put on a list of 21 most-wanted organisers, captured and jailed for up to 34 months.

Ma and Yang urged Chinese leaders not to try to settle scores left over from the 1989 movement by prosecuting Wang.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### 4 mathematicians win Fields prizes in Germany

BERLIN (AFP) — Two Britons, a Russian and an American won prestigious Fields prizes, the mathematics equivalent of the Nobel Prize, at a congress in Berlin Tuesday. The 17,500-mark (\$9,700) awards went to Britons Richard Ewen Borcherds for his work in geometry and algebra and William Timothy Gowers for his function analysis. Russian Maxim Kontsevich for work in theoretical physics and to American Curtis T. McMullen for geometry. The international congress that opened here Tuesday joins 3,500 mathematicians from 96 countries to discuss new developments in their field. It is considered the largest gathering of mathematicians worldwide. U.S. mathematician Peter Shor won the Nevanlinna prize for his work in Quantum computing, which helps in processing large amounts of data.

### Tougher professional code for Italian journalists

ROME (AFP) — A new code of ethics for journalists aimed at guaranteeing more respect for people's private lives came into effect in Italy Tuesday. The tougher code, which includes articles drawn up by journalists and editors as well as the data protection agency, will ban identifying minors in various cases or the publication of information enabling their identification. The code also forbids intrusion into the private lives of public figures to obtain information which has no bearing on their public roles.

### Brazil election poll shows wide lead for Cardoso

SAO PAULO (R) — President Fernando Henrique Cardoso would win reelection outright without being forced into a second-round runoff if the election, set for Oct. 4, were held today, an opinion poll published on Tuesday said. The poll, conducted by research unit Datafolha for newspaper Folha de Sao Paulo, showed 42 per cent support for the incumbent president, up from 40 per cent in July. Although Cardoso's showing in the poll was under 50 per cent, under Brazilian voting rules any candidate who wins more valid votes than his or her rivals combined automatically wins the election. Otherwise, the first and second-place candidates go into a head-to-head second round. Cardoso's closest rival in the race was leftist Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, who held 26 per cent of the vote, down from 28 per cent in July. Former Finance Minister Ciro Gomes, running on a centre-left platform, had 7 per cent, while nationalist Eneas Carneiro had four per cent. The remaining candidates combined accounted for slightly more than 1 per cent. Datafolha estimated a margin of error of two percentage points. Blank and undecided votes accounted for the remaining 18 per cent of the 10,289 Brazilian voters surveyed across the country between Aug. 12 and 14. Datafolha said.

### Pizza delivery man picks A Name

GAINESVILLE, Florida (AP) — David Hunsinger, a 22-year-old pizza delivery man and singer, decided one day that he wanted to pick his own identity. Now he's Just A. Name. The middle initial came courtesy of Circuit Court Judge Maurice Giunta, who said Name's original choice of Anonymity for a middle name wouldn't really work. "It didn't make sense to use that," Giunta said. "He really wanted Just A. Name and Anonymity just didn't flow." So after short contemplation, Name abbreviated Anonymity. But Name may wish to remain anonymous once his parents find out. He still hasn't told them — he thinks it might upset them.

### Russian, U.S. women repeat flight pioneers' route

MOSCOW (R) — Female pilots from Russia and the United States have repeated a legendary 1938 long-range flight by three pioneering Soviet women, the head of Russia's Women's Pilots Association said Tuesday. Galina Korshunova said four women, two Americans and two Russians, covered about 8,000 km to reach the remote Osipenko settlement in Russia's Far East on Aug. 8. The pilots had taken off in an ancient Russian An-2 aircraft and a U.S. built four-seater on July 27 from Moscow's small Tushino airport. "They said it was an extremely interesting flight," Korshunova said. In 1938 Soviet pilots Valentina Grizodubova, Polina Osipenko and Maria Raskova made a non-stop flight between Moscow and Komsomolsk-on-Amur in an An-37 aircraft. They were awarded Soviet medals for setting the world non-stop flight record. Although the 1998 crew made a few stops, flying only in the daytime, the route was still a challenge because of a lack of air traffic control stations and other aviation facilities. Korshunova said the U.S. pilots, Nikki Mitchell and Rhonda Miles, have continued their journey on to Alaska, Canada and the United States. The Americans left Nashville, Tennessee, on July 4 and plan to return home later this week having completed a round-the-world trip, she said. They were joined on the Russian leg by local flyers Natalia Vinokurova and Khalide Makagonova.

### Federal charges dropped against militant Freeman

BILLINGS, Montana (AP) — A judge dismissed federal charges against the owner of the ranch where the militant anti-government Montana Freemen staged an 81-day standoff with the FBI. Three state charges were filed later against the group member, Ralph Clark, Monday, stemming from his involvement in a Freeman check-writing scheme, threats against officials and the 1996 standoff. About two dozen heavily armed Freeman kept hundreds of FBI agents at bay for 81 days around the foreclosed farm property they called Justus Township. The standoff ended peacefully. Clark is charged with one count of criminal syndicalism, or encouraging violence for political purposes, and two counts of issuing bad checks in January 1996 totalling about \$75,000. Judge Pedro Hernandez set bail at \$10,000. Clark was jailed at the Yellowstone County Detention Facility, where he has been held since surrendering to FBI agents after the standoff. In a federal trial on similar charges, the jury deadlocked on all four counts against Clark. In that trial of a dozen Freeman that ended last month, a jury convicted Freeman leaders of a conspiracy to defraud four banks in the check-writing scheme. But the panel deadlocked on conspiracy charges against several of the defendants. Prosecutors plan to retry parts of the case.

## Congo rebels discover 150 massacred Tutsis

KAMPALA (AFP) — Tutsi rebels fighting the Kinshasa regime discovered the bodies of 150 massacred Tutsis after capturing the eastern border town of Bunia at the weekend, the New Vision newspaper reported Tuesday.

The state-owned paper, quoting area residents, said that government troops of the 53rd army battal-

ion had carried out the massacre in the far east of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The rebels discovered the bodies at the main barracks near Bunia airport, the paper said, adding that many were still missing.

The paper said the rebels had just captured the towns of Bunia, Mahagi, Aru and Ariwara from

forces of DRC President Laurent Kabila when they discovered the bodies.

The massacre victims had been residents of those towns and Gombe, Rumu, Kumuro Jengu and Ombokoro, as well as areas surrounding Bunia, the paper said.

Relief agency sources said many Rwandan and Ugandan civilians were missing amid

fears for their safety. Kabila has accused both Rwanda and Uganda of backing the two-week-old rebellion.

The paper also quoted DRC rebel sources as saying that they were moving to prevent any help from the Sudanese government from reaching the country through the Central African

Republic. Fierce fighting between rebels and government forces was reported at Mungu-Walu, about 40 kilometres southeast of Watsa town, after the DRC government launched a counter-offensive there to stop the rebels from advancing towards Isiro and Kisangani, the DRC's third city.

The fighting has triggered an influx of civilians into the northwest Ugandan district of Arusa, but the U.N. High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) spokeswoman here, Tomoko Niino, said the agency did not know how many had actually entered Uganda.

Niino said that reports also indicated a flow of refugees towards southwestern Uganda's Kisoro district, "but we have not received any major report yet."

China halts forced sterilisation of people with genetic conditions

China's government has announced a law to ban forced sterilisation of people with genetic conditions. The law is part of a broader effort to improve reproductive rights and health care for all citizens.

Julien Green

The French author Julien Green, who died last week, was a prominent figure in the world of literature. His works have been widely read and appreciated.

Billings

Billings



## World News

Jordan Times, Wednesday, August 19, 1998

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Thomas W. Simons (left), U.S. ambassador in Pakistan, stands with other countrymen outside the departure lounge at Islamabad airport. The United States temporarily shut its information centres in Pakistan and plans to pull out its non-essential embassy staff in a security move linked to deadly embassy bombing in East Africa (Reuters photo)

## China halts forced sterilisation of people with genetic conditions

BEIJING (AFP) — China's government has clarified a law to stop it from sanctioning doctors to sterilise people with serious genetic conditions against their will, a leading Chinese medical ethicist said Tuesday.

The Health Ministry and the Legislative Affairs Commission of the National People's Congress (NPC), parliament, have issued an "explanation" stating sterilisation should only be allowed with the subject's consent, said Qiu Reuzong, director of bioethics at the Chinese Institute of Philosophy.

Officials from the two government bodies made the announcement to scientists attending an international genetics conference on August 3, he told AFP.

Qiu, who has been fighting for a revision of the Maternal Infant Care Law since it took effect in June 1995, said the explanation had the force of law until the NPC formally revises the original statute, a process that could take years.

Already sent out to all the country's cities and provinces, the explanation also makes clear that people who have tested positive for the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) believed to cause AIDS do not require permission to marry, he said.

## Two said killed by Indian firing in Azad Kashmir

MUZAFFARABAD, Pakistan (R) — Indian troops fired machineguns across a military control line in Kashmir Tuesday, killing two men in the Pakistan-ruled part of the disputed Himalayan region, local officials said.

They said the firing targeted Athmuqam in Pakistan-controlled Azad (free) Kashmir's Neelum valley, which has been the scene of heavy shelling duels between Indian and Pakistani forces this month.

Azad Kashmir Senior Minister Ishaq Zafar said Tuesday 123 people had been killed and 355 injured by Indian firing in Azad

Kashmir since June 1.

He told a news conference at Muzaffarabad, the state capital, that 89,000 people had been displaced by what he called the most serious Indian shelling in recent years.

74,000 of them from the Neelum valley, north-east of the town, and the rest from Jhelum valley in the southeast.

Shooting between the rival troops frequently erupts across the 720 km ceasefire line that divides Kashmir, over which the countries have fought two of their three wars since their independence from Britain in 1947.

Both sides have reported

an increase in border violations in the area amid heightened tension between them caused by their nuclear tests in May.

New Delhi, which rules two-thirds of Kashmir, accuses Islamabad of training and arming Kashmiri guerrillas seeking independence or union with Pakistan. Pakistan, which controls the remainder of the region, denies the charge and says it provides only political and diplomatic support to the separatists.

Police and hospitals say more than 25,000 people have been killed in the eight-year-old rebellion in Indian Kashmir.

## 100 feared killed in Indian landslide

NEW DELHI (AFP) — At least 100 people, mostly Hindu devotees, were believed to have died Tuesday when a landslide wiped out a village in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh, local police said.

Police said the landslide occurred in the state's Pithoragarh district, bordering Nepal, at 3:00 a.m. (2130 GMT Monday).

"For the moment, we think that as many as 100 people may have died, most of them people who were on a pilgrimage in the area," police official Udayan Parmar told AFP by telephone from the nearby city of Bareilly.

The entire village of Malpa was destroyed in the landslide, Parmar said, adding

that eight Indian soldiers camping in the village were also missing.

Among those believed dead were 60 Hindu pilgrims who were staying in a local state-run guesthouse that was swept away in the landslide.

"We have reports that there were nine survivors (from the guesthouse) and three are critically injured," Parmar said.

An army spokesman said three rescue teams comprising around 100 soldiers and officers were in the vicinity of the disaster zone.

"But because of bad weather, the rescue operations have been hampered and none of the victims have been traced," he said.

The military also temporar-

ily froze plans to deploy rescue helicopters at the site, saying troops with heavy rescue equipment would move as soon as fog lifted.

Parmar said hopes of finding survivors were remote as the village was cut off.

"The nearest base camp to reach the village is 20 kilometres away. We are not able to access the village as landslides are still continuing," he said.

A backup rescue team formed by neighbouring villagers hoped to reach the site by early Wednesday.

At least 69 people were killed in Uttar Pradesh last week in a series of landslides sparked by two days of pounding rains.

## Americans exit Pakistan amid security fears

ISLAMABAD (R) — More than 200 expatriate Americans, led by diplomats and their families, Tuesday left Pakistan because of security fears linked to deadly embassy bombings in East Africa, officials said.

Around 180 Americans, some taking family pets with them, left in a chartered DC-10 aircraft from a Pakistan Air Force base near the capital, Islamabad, after orders from Washington that non-essential embassy staff leave the country.

The plane picked up 35 more passengers at Karachi, as diplomats and their families from Pakistan's most violent city and from Lahore joined the flight.

"It is a sad day for us... for those who are leaving. There will be disruption of family life," U.S. Ambassador Thomas W. Simons told reporters at the airport.

But Simons, who is staying behind with a core group of envoys and embassy staff, said a U.S. presence would continue.

"We are still here. The Americans are going to continue to stay here. All

four of our posts in Pakistan are going to continue to operate at a reduced level... It is a draw-down rather than a pull-out," he added.

The flight was expected to arrive in Washington in the early hours of Wednesday morning after a refuelling stop in Brussels.

An embassy spokesman said the U.S. diplomatic presence in Pakistan had been cut by around 50 per cent.

Staffing at the Karachi consulate — difficult to protect because it fronts one of the city's busiest streets — is being cut from around 20 to under 12.

He stressed the move was not specific to Pakistan, but was part of a worldwide precautionary withdrawal from centres where staff were vulnerable in the wake of the East African bombings.

The United States had cited a "very serious threat" to U.S. facilities and citizens for its move, which followed Pakistan's statement on Sunday that it had arrested a suspect in the bombings and sent him to Nairobi.

Pakistan identified the suspect as Mohammad Sadik Howaida, 32, and

described him as an "Arab national" without specifying his country of origin.

Simultaneous truck-bomb attacks on U.S. embassies in Nairobi, Kenya and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania on Aug. 7 killed at least 257 people and wounded over 5,000.

Urdu-language newspaper Jang, quoting official sources, said Tuesday that Pakistani authorities had arrested two more bombing suspects.

It said in a report tucked away on its back page that Abdullah, a Saudi national, and Abu Jafer, a Sudanese, were arrested last Saturday at Torkham on the Pakistan-Afghan border.

American and Kenyan investigators in Nairobi said Monday Howaida had denied responsibility for the bombings.

But in Pakistan, Howaida was reported to have identified Osama Bin Laden, a wealthy anti-U.S. Saudi Arabian dissident living in exile in Afghanistan, as the man behind the attacks.

The Islamic Taleban movement, which controls most of that war-ravaged country, denies Osama is linked to the bombings.

Osama, a multi-million-

aire stripped of his Saudi citizenship, has been named by the United States as a prime suspect in two bombings in Saudi Arabia that killed 24 U.S. servicemen and two Indians and wounded more than 400 people in 1995 and 1996.

Emirates News, an official daily in the United Arab Emirates, said Tuesday that Washington had requested permission to establish a base inside Pakistan from which to hunt down Osama.

Islamabad has not confirmed that such a request was made and U.S. officials there refused to comment.

Pakistani police said they had tightened security for U.S. missions, which are to provide only minimal consular services.

There are more than 6,000 U.S. citizens in Pakistan, most of whom are said to be of Pakistani origin, according to officials.

Gunsman killed four American oil company executives in November last year, and two consulate employees in 1995. The killers were never caught.

Washington in November issued a warning to private citizens against travelling in Pakistan.

## NLD meets military as Suu Kyi stands firm

YANGON (R) — Senior members of Myanmar's military government and the pro-democracy opposition met for the first time in more than a year Tuesday while opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi kept up a week-long roadside protest.

The head of Myanmar's military intelligence arm, Secretary One Khin Nyunt, met Aung Shwe, the chairman of the opposition National League for Democracy (NLD), for 45 minutes in the afternoon, government officials said.

"We hope that this is the first in a series of confidence-building talks between the government and the NLD," a government statement quoted Khin Nyunt as saying.

"We have had a fruitful meeting and we have also appreciated the NLD's acceptance of our offer of a meeting."

The statement did not say what was discussed at the meeting, which comes ahead of a Friday deadline set by the NLD for the con-

vening of a parliament of members elected at a general election in 1990.

The NLD won the poll by a landslide but the government ignored the result.

During the meeting, Suu Kyi, the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize laureate, remained stuck in a minivan on a country bridge 32 km southwest of Yangon for a seventh day, having been prevented from driving to see supporters in western Myanmar.

She has refused government demands for her to return to Yangon and diplomats say the protest has highlighted both her lack of freedom of movement and the NLD's deadline.

The government offered talks with the NLD on Aug. 7 but the party turned them down as they would have excluded Suu Kyi.

The NLD, described by Myanmar's government-run newspapers Monday as the "Number One Enemy", confirmed that the meeting with the government had taken place but gave no details.

Diplomats said it was not clear why the opposition had changed its position.

The NLD said authorities permitted Suu Kyi's doctor to see her Tuesday to check on her health. It said she required a daily check up and arrangements were being made for this.

After a similar six-day stand off last month, which was forcibly ended by the military, Aung San Suu Kyi suffered from dehydration and had to rest for several days.

A commentary published in three government-run newspapers Tuesday accused foreign governments and news organisations of colluding in Suu Kyi's protest.

It accused the Voice of America, the British Broadcasting Corp and Radio Free Asia, of interfering in Myanmar's internal affairs by "profusely advocating the demand of the lady".

"Some so-called diplomats and foreign correspondents, making arrangements beforehand with so-called

NLD leaders, spread invented and exaggerated news, a pack of lies..." it said.

"Some Western governments, with their eyes shut, shouted at the top of their voice, protested and meddled," it said.

The government has so far ignored the NLD's call for a parliament and has ridiculed Suu Kyi's protest by sending gifts, including a beach umbrella.

Diplomats say it appears to be trying to minimise Suu Kyi's impact by making her protest look like a camping holiday.

The government has accused the NLD of staging the protest to provoke unrest among university students, who led a nationwide pro-democracy movement crushed by the military 10 years ago.

Tuesday, more than 96,000 students, whose universities and colleges have been closed since protests in late 1996, sat final examinations. Diplomats and university officials said there were no signs of trouble.

## Philippines scientists develop new higher-yielding rice

LOS BANOS, Philippines (AP) — In an effort to keep up with population growth, scientists in the Philippines are developing a new strain of rice they believe will produce dramatically bigger and quicker harvests.

The new variety can outperform the most prolific current strains by up to 25 per cent, said Gurdev Khush, chief rice breeder at the International Rice Research Institute.

Rice is a staple for much of the world's population and provides about 60 per cent of Asians' diet. Unless output improves, population growth will outstrip supplies and cause a sharp increase in poverty, malnutrition and social unrest in the next 25 years, institute scientists say.

The problem will be worsened by the decreasing amount of land and water available for agriculture because of real estate development, said Robert Havener, director of the institute, an independent nonprofit centre financed by government and private donors.

"Recent events in Indonesia, perhaps, are an example of where economic chaos and food scarcity brought political instability,

and can bring down governments and cause civil strife," he said.

Boriboon Somrith, senior rice expert at the Department of Agriculture in Thailand, said scientists in his country have not yet duplicated the Philippine centre's results but are hopeful about its prospects.

"The plant type is a welcome development, but it needs to improve some more in grain quality and aroma to be acceptable to Thais," he said.

In the past, some experts have criticised the rice varieties developed by the institute because they needed more fertiliser and pesticides, which hurt the environment and are sometimes too expensive for poor peasants.

The institute's leaders say they learned the importance of a genuine partnership with farmers, who should be consulted to determine their needs instead of being dictated to by crop researchers.

They say the institute is studying new rice-growing methods that are safer and cheaper for farmers. It also is examining ways to reduce insecticide and fertiliser use — for example, by using rice-friendly

insects, crop diversity and plants that can help reduce rice's fertiliser intake.

Development of the new rice strain began in 1988 with the study of about 2,000 varieties of rice out of the more than 90,000 kept in the Philippine-based institute's seed bank, Khush said.

Researchers made about 2,500 crosses to produce more than 50,000 breeding lines from which to develop the new rice.

The new strain produces more grains and is ready for harvest in 100 days, 30 days sooner than present high-yielding varieties and 40-80 days earlier than traditional rice.

The plant also has wider leaves and sturdier roots, making it more resilient in tropical weather and more resistant to disease. All of its stems are productive, with more clusters of rice than normal plants.

"It is estimated that by 2020 we will have to produce 50 per cent more rice than what we are producing now," Khush said.

"That's why this new plant type is important."

The new strain also has been bred to have immunity to blight and other diseases and be resistant to a host of

insect pests.

Farmers will be able to start planting the new strain on their fields in two years, the institute says.

In the 1960s, the institute, in Los Banos, about 80 km south of Manila, pioneered the development of new rice plants capable of higher yields. The new strains helped overcome food shortages caused by Asia's burgeoning population and shrinking farmland.

The achievement was labelled the "Green Revolution" because advocates said it helped alleviate poverty and reduce hunger, thereby removing the seeds of violent social change.

But through the years, rising population caught up with production, which has remained generally at 1980 levels.

The institute is also working on other new rice varieties that can survive adverse conditions like drought, flooding and high salinity and are less dependent on fertilisers, insecticides and herbicides.

Work has also started on a possible perennial rice plant that would eliminate the need for arduous annual planting.

## Julien Green, American writer in Paris, dies

PARIS (AFP) — The French-American author Julien Green, who was born with the century and whose death was announced late Monday, wrote innumerable novels, plays and essays but is best known around the world for his personal diary, the longest ever to be published continually.

He began the "Journal" in 1919, during his first visit to the United States, and was still writing in its pages in the days before his death last Thursday.

No fewer than 17 volumes of the "Journal" were published in French, the latest appearing in English last year. Recommencing the "Journal" after a three-year break in 1928, he wrote: "It will help me to see more clearly into myself. I intend to put my entire life into these pages with absolute frankness and precision. What will come of this book?"

Born in Paris to American parents of Scottish-Irish Protestant background, Julien Harbridge Green (he later Gallicised his first name) was

the last of eight children and was given a bilingual French-English education.

In the turmoil caused by the death of his mother when he was 14 he converted first to Catholicism, then to Buddhism, and three years later volunteered as an ambulance-man in World War I.

He resumed his education in Paris and, from 1919, at the University of Virginia, returning to France in 1922.



— *The Observer*



August 19, 1998  
J. Zogby

## N. Irish people question chances for peace after bombing

BELFAST (R) — A young Northern Irish woman is pushing her nine-month-old son in a pram, her husband walks beside her, a young family out shopping in Belfast.

"There will never be peace in this country," Adam Parry, the 24-year-old Protestant father of baby Adam, says with conviction.

Saturday's car bomb blast in the Northern Ireland town of Omagh that killed 28 men, women and children has shattered the faith of many local people that a solution can be found to end decades of violence and bloodshed in the British province.

Parry, a shop worker, says he voted 'no' in the recent Northern Ireland referendum that asked whether people supported the historic 'Good Friday' peace agreement signed last April.

The majority voted overwhelmingly in favour.

Parry had some doubts about his decision to reject the deal at the time. Not any more: "I would vote 'no' again and think most of my friends would as well," he says.

"People shouldn't be talking about the peace process, they should be trying to catch the people who committed this atrocity," Parry says.

His wife nods in agreement.

Bitterness mixed with sadness is evident among many of those in a city still starkly divided between Protestants, who support British rule and Catholics, seeking a united Ireland.

"As far as I'm concerned it's crap...nobody agreed to all of (the peace agreement) just parts of it," a young salesman told Reuters, declining to give his name.

"The politicians don't know what they're talking about and the terrorists don't care what they say. They just carry on regardless," the young man said.

Protestant and Catholic political leaders in the province have joined British Prime Minister Tony Blair in condemning the bombing of innocent people three days ago. The peace process would not be wrecked by the bomb, Blair promised.

But the attack, thought to be the work of a renegade Republican paramilitary group, the Real IRA, has sent shockwaves through an already fragile community.

"People are very, very edgy," Belfast professor of Irish politics Paul Bew told Reuters. "They are in shock, and the situation is poised...Omagh has changed

the political landscape in Northern Ireland. It's either an opportunity for change or the tide may turn against the peace agreement."

"I think there's no doubt if there was a referendum tomorrow there would be a much higher 'no' vote," Bew said.

Many locals, interviewed as the first of the funerals of victims of the Omagh bombing got under way, sympathised with the difficulty faced by the politicians trying to solve the sectarian conflict.

"Everybody's tired of all this fighting. To see kids getting killed..." Jeanette McDonagh, 23, says. There are tears in her eyes. "It's enough, it must stop."

"There's no other way forward," John Stevenson, a 63-year-old retired civil servant, said. "We have to turn away from violence. This has gone on for too long."

A Catholic housewife, Margaret Parkinson, with her young daughter Jane, 16, said the bombing was a blow against peace.

"There has to be peace in our land...But you can't be angry, anger doesn't heal. This is a country riddled with the scars of the past," she said.

## Street life — Wise woman survives in the land of fools

By Helen Womack

**SAMOTECHNY LANE, MOSCOW** — Partly from affection but more from despair, this is how Russians themselves often describe their illogical, suffering country. If it is true that so many of Russia's problems have been caused less by evil than by stupid people, then it is a joy to meet a freethinker such as Natalya Sokolova.

In the Soviet period, she was a minor dissident whom I would have met on the street, all the time looking over my shoulder for the KGB. However hard life is in Russia now, at least that fear has gone and I can drop in to her flat for tea and a chat.

Natalya lives in very poor circumstances. To feed her five children, she sells books on the street, in 30 degrees of heat or 30 degrees of frost, regardless. The walls of her flat are decorated with newspaper because she cannot afford wallpaper.

On my last visit, the only food visible in the kitchen was a white loaf on the table and a pan of beans on the hob.

But the children are creatively occupied, drawing or listening to music. A gorgeous black cat, rescued from superstitious neighbours who kicked it out because they thought it was unlucky, sleeps in a corner. There is a sense of purpose here, and I never feel pity in this home, only respect.

A biologist by training, Natalya used to perform experiments on the brains of dogs in the same

institute that preserved the brain of Lenin. That was her day job. By night, she typed out carbon copies of banned books by authors from Alexander Solzhenitsyn to George Orwell. She worked for the better-known dissidents Larissa Bogoraz and Father Dmitry Dudko, who were active in the Brezhnev era. "My apartment was an underground publishing house," she said. "My own mother, who was a strict Communist, reported me to the authorities. Strana durakovi!"

"With our corrupt politicians, you cannot really say we have democracy now," she said. "But the people have the leaders they deserve. You cannot achieve democracy by presidential decree. Citizens must learn to take personal responsibility. 'The authorities don't need labour camps anymore. They control us by keeping us in perpetual uncertainty, by not paying our wages. They do not quite let us die but neither do they let us live. And so people are obsessed

who betrayed her to the secret police.

As for her children, Natalya tries to teach them that man does not live by bread alone.

"It is not easy when they see wealth around them. They want things too," she said. "But most gains in Russia these days are ill gotten. It is almost impossible to make big money by honest means. When they see shiny black Jeeps, I tell them to look not at the cars but at the thugs driving them. I say, 'those people are poorer than we are'."

Instead of letting them watch television, with tantalising advertisements for consumer goods they cannot possibly afford, Natalya takes her artistically inclined children out into the woods to paint watercolours.

Her eldest son, Alexei, 16, is doing particularly well at a special school where general education is bolstered with additional art training, and he is hoping to carry on to Moscow's prestigious Ilya Repin Art Institute.

Shyly he showed some of the sketches he has been doing, including one of a Moscow backyard with trees and dustbins and grandmothers nattering on a bench.

It looked a little like Samotechny Lane, and I thought that, better than a photograph, it would convey the spirit of the Sokolov family.

— The Independent

*'With our corrupt politicians, you cannot really say we have democracy now' — Natalya Sokolova, Russian biologist and mother*

"The KGB came for me at five o'clock on a frosty January morning but I wasn't in. I was talking to a friend on the street below. I saw the agents up in my window. Then they left."

"They arrested someone else and didn't bother coming back for me. You see, like factories, the KGB also had their plans to fulfil and they had got their quota for January."

For thinking people in Russia today, the issues are no longer as black and white as they were in Soviet times, when it was a simple matter of conforming or daring to fight for freedom.

Natalya navigates better than most in moral waters that are confusingly murky.

with nothing higher than material problems, where the next meal is coming from."

Natalya refuses to worry about that, trusting that God will provide. She has become an Orthodox Christian, but not of the fanatical, Russian nationalist kind.

"I tell all the anti-Semites at church that the Virgin Mary was Jewish too," she joked.

Compared with other Russians, who will not or cannot confront the mistakes of the past squarely, she takes the concept of personal responsibility to an extreme degree. Not only does she pray for forgiveness of her own sins but she also believes she must answer for the crimes and stupidities of past generations, including her mother

## Prince Hassan receives President Bashir's letter

(Continued from page 1)

attended the meeting.

Ismail also met Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and handed him a message from Sudan's vice president. The message dealt with bilateral relations and agreements reached by the Jordanian-Sudanese Higher Committee which convened in Khartoum in September of last year.

Ismail reiterated Sudan's call to the Jordanian private sector to invest in Sudanese agricultural projects.

Majali said Jordan is interested in investment in Sudanese projects and expressed hope for further cooperation between the private sectors in the two countries.

"From now and until the convening of the higher committee meeting in Amman next October the two sides will conduct an evaluation of the bilateral agreements," Majali said.

Senate Speaker Zeid Rifai Tuesday called on all concerned parties to exert efforts to create a secure and stable Middle East.

During a meeting with the Sudanese minister, Rifai said Jordan anticipates further strengthening of relations with Sudan, especially in parliamentary fields.

Ismail expressed appreciation of Jordan's stand with regard to Sudan and the Kingdom's call for a lifting of the sanctions imposed on that country and other Arab states.

Ismail said that Khartoum appreciates Jordan's endeavours to help Sudan safeguard its sovereignty and territorial integrity and appreciates its continued assistance to the Sudanese people.

Ismail also welcomed any Jordanian initiative for investment in Sudan especially in agriculture saying that vast prospects exist for such endeavour in his country.

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## U.N. council gives go-ahead to Iraq arms inspectors

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The Security Council gave the go-ahead late Monday for full-scale operations by U.N. weapons inspectors in Iraq, despite Baghdad's continuing refusal to cooperate.

Letters that the council agreed to send to the heads of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) in charge of dismantling Iraq and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) also stress that Iraq is obliged to provide the necessary cooperation.

Council President Danilo Turk of Slovenia told reporters it would be up to the weapons chiefs to decide when and how to conduct their inspections, which have been suspended for more than a week.

"The practical steps which will have to be taken... depend primarily on the decisions of UNSCOM and the IAEA," he said.

"They are the ones who will have to see which inspections go ahead soon,

which inspections have to go on later." If and when the inspections are resumed, Iraq will have to decide whether to make good on a threat, announced Aug. 5, that it would no longer cooperate with either U.N. agency until UNSCOM was restructured to reduce alleged American influence and its headquarters moved from New York to Geneva or Vienna.

Should Iraq persist in its announced policy, it is in danger of whittling away the support it has enjoyed from such council members as Russia, France and China. It will also strengthen the council unit that the United States and Britain are eager to foster in advance of any future showdown.

Baghdad has repeatedly accused UNSCOM of being influenced by Washington to prolong the disarmament process, which must be completed before the Security Council can lift sanctions imposed on Iraq since

its 1990 invasion of Kuwait. The Security Council's letters are in reply to requests for guidance from UNSCOM executive chairman Richard Butler and IAEA director-general Mohammed Al Baradei.

They formally notified the council last week that Iraq's decision to cease all cooperation prevented their inspection teams from carrying out most of their duties.

UNSCOM and the IAEA later halted inspections of new sites in Iraq. However, their experts are continuing to monitor previously declared facilities where banned weapons activities might be carried out.

The council was also told during closed-door consultations Monday that Secretary General Kofi Annan's special representative in Baghdad, Indian diplomat Prakash Shah, had been unsuccessful so far in getting Iraq to rescind its decision.

A key passage in the

council letters reiterates members' "full support for the IAEA and UNSCOM in the full implementation of their mandates." "Iraq is obliged under the relevant Security Council resolutions to provide the IAEA/UNSCOM with the cooperation necessary for them to undertake their activities, including inspections," the letters add.

The weapons chiefs are told they "should continue to report to the council on all occasions that you deem necessary." American U.N. envoy Bill Richardson told reporters: "Iraq thinks they are going to goad the international community into precipitous action. If they fail to comply, there will be serious consequences," he added.

Iraq has in the past manifested its non-cooperation by failing to provide U.N. weapons teams with escorts or "minders," without which they cannot function. The council letters also expressed support for continuing efforts by the secretary general and Shah, to get Iraq to rescind its decision.

Shah, who is continuing talks with Iraqi officials, is expected to arrive in New York Thursday and is likely to report to the council later.

The letters reiterate a statement issued by the council Aug. 6 saying Iraq's announcement of non-cooperation was "totally unacceptable" and that it contravened council resolutions as well as an agreement that Annan himself negotiated in Baghdad last February intended to secure unfettered access for U.N. weapons inspectors.

"The members of the Security Council emphasise the need for an early resumption of dialogue between UNSCOM/IAEA and Iraq and will be ready to respond favourably to future progress made in the disarmament process," the letters add, offering an inducement to Iraq.

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## U.N. envoy says Iraq still refuses to cooperate

(Continued from page 1)

"I am going to New York tomorrow and there is an intention of the council to hear what I have to say." The Security Council gave the go-ahead late on Monday for full-scale operations by U.N. weapons inspectors in Iraq, despite Baghdad's continuing refusal to cooperate.

Letters that the council agreed to send to the heads of UNSCOM and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) also stress that Iraq is obliged to provide the necessary cooperation.

Council President Danilo Turk of Slovenia told reporters it would be up to the weapons chiefs to decide when and how to conduct their inspections, which have been suspended for more than a week.

"The practical steps which will have to be taken... depend primarily on the decisions of UNSCOM and the IAEA," he said.

"They are the ones who will have to see which inspections go ahead soon,

obliged to provide the necessary cooperation.

UNSCOM is charged with scrapping Iraq's ballistic missiles, biological and chemical weapons.

It and the IAEA, given the task of monitoring Iraq's nuclear programme, last week suspended weapons inspections at new sites in Iraq after Baghdad's decision to halt cooperation.

But UNSCOM experts have continued to monitor sites already identified by inspectors looking for evidence of prohibited weapons.

The U.N. weapons inspectors are waiting for instructions from their headquarters in New York to resume full inspections of Iraqi arms sites, a U.N. official in Baghdad said on Tuesday.

Iraq has repeatedly accused UNSCOM of being influenced by the United States to prolong weapons inspections. The country must be certified free of all weapons of mass destruction before the U.N. can lift the economic sanctions.

## Visa applicants asked to leave premises after bomb threat at U.S. embassy

(Continued from page 1)

near the embassy's premises in the luxurious neighbourhood of Deir Ghbar in western Amman, said the eyewitness, who asked not to be named.

Police guarding the U.S. embassy banned a TV crew from shooting the embassy premises, escorted them to a nearby police station and confiscated their tapes. The crew was later on released.

Minister of Interior Nather Rash







## Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic Press

## Kanaan calls for opening Palestinian and Iraqi markets to overcome local recession

FORMER PLANNING minister Taber Kanaan called for opening the Palestinian and Iraqi markets to overcome the economic recession that the Kingdom is suffering from. In a lecture he delivered recently at Al Fayha Club, Kanaan said the main reason for the recession was the loss of the traditional markets such as Iraq and the Arab Gulf states during the past years in addition to the inability to enter the Palestinian market which, despite peace, remains a captive of the Israeli economy.

He called for opening the Palestinian market which can absorb Jordanian products worth in excess of \$500 million. Furthermore, he urged the Jordanian indus-

try to face up to the coming international competition in light of joining the World Trade Organisation and the partnership agreement with Europe. Kanaan stressed facing the competition challenge requires retraining of manpower and fundamental administrative reform of the government.

Kanaan emphasised the importance of encouraging foreign investments and putting an end to bureaucratic measures that currently exist in the Department of Customs and other institutions. He called for concentrating on basic and qualitative education and separating it from higher education (Al Ra'i).

## Poverty, unemployment rates continue rising

DESPITE SPENDING around JD140 million on the social work sector during 1997, excluding the amounts spent by the Ministry of Health and Medical Care, the Ministry of Education and private sector benevolence, the rates of poverty and unemployment are increasing, the minister of social development said in an open discussion recently.

The minister, Mohammad Khair Mansour, said that also the problems of disability and begging have gone also out of proportion. "We are trying to pinpoint what is wrong and the operation gaps in order to rectify the situation... it is at the family, at the community, or at the ministry?" he added.

Mansour revealed the Ministry of Social Development is heavily bloated with 1,711 employees, 25 to 30 per cent of whom work outside the ministry as they are seconded to the National Aid Fund, the Queen Alia Fund and other welfare societies. He indicated that 40 per cent of the staff are workers clas-

sified in the fourth category in the civil service manning table.

The minister said the number of social work and psychiatric experts is not more than few tens when the ministry is in need of 800 specialised staff in the areas of disability, special education, childhood and maternity. He concluded by stressing that although the administrative, technical and organisational structure of the social work activity is good, much negative aspects must be remedied such as the scope and number of operating institutions. He indicated that there are 51 private and public organisations, 14 legislations for organising the work, 15 other laws related to social work and 20 regulations. "This diversity can be turned into a positive phenomenon if the role of the Higher Council for the Social Aid Network is activated to look after its planning and coordinating objective," he said (Al Dustour).

## Slow economy, Asia to hit profits of Israeli companies

TEL AVIV (R) — A worsening domestic economic slowdown and the fallout from the Asian crisis will hurt second-quarter earnings of Israeli companies, Bank Hapoalim said in a report.

"After weighing all the factors, we see that in comparison to the second quarter last year, corporate revenues will fall, especially following the aggravation of the slowdown in economic activity," the report said.

Israel's economy grew at a sluggish 1.2 per cent annual rate in the first quarter, but Hapoalim cited indicators pointing to a further slowdown in the second quarter.

It said gross and operating margins would be hurt by wage costs that grew sharply because collective agreements did not foresee

this year's sharp decline in inflation. It said lower world commodities prices would partly offset higher wages.

Hapoalim said the Asian crisis continued hurting Israeli exporters to the region although relatively lightly. However, Israeli companies competing with Asians in domestic and third-country markets were feeling the competitive pinch of weaker Asian currencies.

It said financial costs would be higher due to high real domestic interest rates. Companies that borrowed in foreign currency but report in shekels would enjoy a slight drop because

of the 0.2 per cent real appreciation of the Israeli shekel in the second quarter, Hapoalim said.

The report said the export-oriented chemicals sector would be hurt by the shekel's appreciation. Bank earnings would be continue falling from first-quarter level as growth in financial income slows and margins continue narrowing.

Food retailers will show higher revenues because of new-store openings and wider margins because of falling commodities prices. However, seasonal factors would partly offset this as would supermarket price wars.

## Jordan and Kuwait to hold joint trade fair next month

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Kuwait will hold a joint trade fair in Amman next month — the first such event since the 1990 Gulf crisis severely strained bilateral ties.

More than 50 Jordanian and 35 Kuwaiti companies will display products ranging from foodstuffs and plastics to petrochemicals and textiles in the trade fair scheduled to be held between Sept. 26 and Oct. 2, according to exhibition organisers — Al Hadithah Establishment.

Planning Minister Rima Khalaf's visit to Kuwait in June was the first of its kind

by any Jordanian minister since the 1990 Gulf crisis in an attempt to revive trade and political ties after a six-year slowdown.

The September trade fair, to be held at the International Motor Show, is seen as the first step towards improving the balance of trade — in favour of Jordan in 1997. Jordanian exports to Kuwait amounted to JD29 million last year.

Jordanian exports to Kuwait include limestone, fruits, vegetables and textiles, while Jordanian imports from Kuwait include foodstuffs and petrochemicals.

## UAE eyes \$27-million fund open to expatriates

DUBAI (AFP) — A \$27-million fund partially open to expatriate investors is in the final stage of approval by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) central bank, the fund's manager said Tuesday.

The seven-year fund, set up by Oman and Emirates Investment Holding Co. (OEIHC), would be the UAE's second fund open to expatriate investors, the company's portfolio manager Nabil Farhat told AFP.

"We have submitted a proposal for an investment ratio of 51 per cent for UAE nationals and 49 per cent for expatriates, which we think likely to be approved," Farhat said.

The Majan 2 fund, which the company hopes to launch by the end of this year, is likely to be sold in blocks of \$27,000, to be invested mainly in non-oil industrial projects in the UAE.

Farhat said the fund could be expanded by a further \$27 million in case of demand.

Sixty per cent of OEIHC is owned equally by the Omani and UAE governments, while the remaining stock is held by nationals of the two Arab Gulf states. The company has assets worth around \$120 million.

Its existing portfolio includes a \$25 million investment in a UAE sugar plant. The company also plans investments in the petrochemical industry and a tourist resort, Farhat said.

## Exhibition in Kenya closes

NAIROBI (Peta) — The second Jordanian industrial exhibition, in which 25 companies participated, concluded here Tuesday.

The five-day exhibition was organised by the Jordan Exports Development and Commercial Centres Corporation. Jordanian businessmen held talks with their Kenyan counterparts, said Abdul Karim Omar, head of the Jordanian delegation.

Omar said several Kenyan businessmen and officials visited the exhibition, stressing their keenness to enhance bilateral economic relations. He added that the exhibition was a good chance to acquaint Kenyan businessmen with Jordanian industries.

The visitors opened direct contacts with the representatives of Jordanian companies in order to sign contracts that will enable Kenya and other African states to import Jordanian products at competitive prices. Kenyan Trade and Industry Minister Qassem Owano visited the exhibition and was briefed on the Jordanian products on display.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 1998

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) The sun's in Leo and the moon's heading that way. Are you getting married? This kind of thing often happens when there's a lot of Leo going on. Leo's a very romantic and committed sign. If you're thinking about settling down for life or recommending to your current relationship, you couldn't pick a better time.

**Taurus:** (April 20 to May 20) This would be a great night to have the Cub Scouts over for a camp out in your back yard. It looks like there's something intense going on at your house anyway. The more the merrier, right? Something happens that rubs you the wrong way later this evening; don't get discouraged. Everything will work out fine.

**Gemini:** (May 21 to June 21) You'll assimilate information more rapidly than ever during the next few days. Don't waste this flash of brilliance by memorising all your baseball cards unless that will help peddle them for profit. Right now, the overall theme is education, but it's also making money. Put the two together to access abundance.

**Cancer:** (June 22 to July 21) There are many opportunities to make money right now. Most of them require commitment. That can be difficult for you, because you like to keep your options open. The more stable you are, however, the more likely you are to get additional chances to make money. Stop skittering around and settle on something.

**Leo:** (July 22 to August 21) Friday's eclipse sets the stage for the next several months. On Sunday, the sun will go into Virgo and out of Leo, so until then you need to put things in place. This is the best chance you'll get this year. Don't procrastinate, start taking action.

**Virgo:** (August 22 to September 22) You're feeling pressure. Expect that feeling for the next few days. The sun's going into your sign Sunday. Between now and then you must finish whatever's not done. You're good at keeping up with things, but there might be a few items you haven't checked off your list. Focus on them now.

**Libra:** (September 23 to October 22) There should be lots of activities to choose from today. You and your friends love to get together and make things happen, so do it today. If you don't already have a team project going, ask around. You can start one up or join one that's already underway. The latter looks like you best bet.

**Scorpio:** (October 23 to November 21) The sun is in Leo and the moon is heading there too. There won't be much time for fun and games today. An older person wants all your attention and you'd be wise to give it. You could get an excellent opportunity to advance in your career, so do and say what's expected. Heed a loved one's advice.

**Sagittarius:** (November 22 to December 21) If you can manage to get away, this would be a great day to travel, especially on business. Perhaps you can talk your boss into letting you scout out an area for a new location. No matter what you're selling, you'll convince people to buy it.

**Capricorn:** (December 22 to January 20) Money is your theme today. You can save quite a bit, but only if you focus on the bottom line. The tendency to spend will be strong, but you know you don't need that stuff, so don't even order it. It's not worth the time to take it back later.

**Aquarius:** (January 21 to February 19) You can't do everything by yourself; there's no point in trying. You have a strong person who's willing to help. Hand over most of the remainders to this individual. It's appropriate for you to take a supporting, rather than a leading, role now.

**Pisces:** (February 20 to March 20) For the next couple days, you'll work your fingers to the bone. If it's any consolation, this is as bad as it gets for the whole coming year. Once this is over, life will look much easier. So hang in there, and try not to complain too much.

Birthstone of August: Peridot — Golden Quartz

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET											
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - JORDAN											
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 18/08/1998											
PART 12 MONTHS	COMPANY'S NAME	F / E	DIV.	NO. OF	NO. OF	VALUE	OPEN	CLOSE	CHANGE		
PRICE	LOW			SHARES	TRADING	JD	PRICE	PRICE			
358.500	170.000	ARAB BANK	18.4	0.89	39	2000	450020	229.00	225.00	4.00	-
2.100	1.620	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	13.4	4.24	7	6001	11220	2.46	2.45	0.01	-
1.300	0.870	MID.EAST INV.BK.	67.0	0.00	4	6000	6080	1.02	1.02	-	-
2.680	1.550	INDUSTRIAL DEV.BK.	11.1	6.56	1	100	158	1.57	1.58	0.01	+
6.810	2.610	THE HOUSING BK.	19.4	3.27	12	104450	318641	3.10	3.06	0.04	-
3.450	1.790	JOR.KUWAIT BANK	9	0.00	3	112	205	1.85	1.85	-	-
0.870	0.580	JOR.GULF BANK	8	0.00	4	19300	11580	0.60	0.60	-	-
4.000	2.400	JOR.ISLAMIC BANK	18.2	0.00	22	15053	26737	1.77	1.78	0.01	+
3.900	1.350	JOR.INTL.FIB.BANK	24.3	0.00	2	650	1021	1.55	1.53	0.02	-
0.950	0.880	PHILADEL. INV. BK.	P	0.00	2	225000	190090	0.85	0.81	0.04	-
BANK SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 296.33 %CHG: -1.47											
2.850	1.690	JOR.FRENCH INSUR.	7.9	8.87	11	22150	62024	2.73	2.82	0.09	+
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 127.93 %CHG: +0.41											
2.240	1.470	JOR.ELECTRIC PWR.	9.9	5.39	14	4762	7293	1.54	1.53	0.01	-
7.500	2.070	VEHICLS. OWNERS FID.	8.2	6.00	1	700	1400	2.07	2.00	0.07	-
1.120	0.770	REAL ESTATE INV.	14.9	0.00	3	950	710	0.77	0.76	0.01	-
4.600	1.880	ARAB INTL. INV. EDUC.	9.9	2.00	4	3000	6000	2.01	2.00	0.01	-
0.070	0.070	SARAF EDUCATION	21.2	0.00	3	950	871	1.80	1.13	0.67	-
1.830	1.200	UNIFIED CO.	5.3	9.24	7	1700	2027	1.21	1.19	0.02	-
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 110.91 %CHG: -0.29											
4.000	1.840	JOR. COINVEST. FACT.	11.3	5.47	12	5927	16999	2.00	2.01	0.01	+
4.110	1.690	JOR. PROSPERITY MINES	17.5	0.00	2	200	330	1.70	1.65	0.05	-
6.500	4.750	ARAB POTASH CO.	23.9	4.12	5	1150	5580	4.95	4.85	0.10	-
11.250	10.050	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	10.3	8.36	13	6992	74349	10.65	10.63	0.02	-
1.820	1.060	INDUSTRIAL COMM. MGR.	66.2	0.00	3	6050	6676	1.09	1.12	0.03	+
5.740	2.400	ARAB PAPER. MFG.	7.0	2.71	44	15478	43041	2.84	2.77	0.07	-
8.800	1.120	JOR. CERAMIC IND.	4.9	8.86	4	1100	1243	1.14	1.13	0.01	-
1.440	1.020	JOR. PIPES MANFCT.	9.2	9.01	3	11500	12765	1.11	1.11	-	-
8.540	5.850	ARAB CHEM. DISTRB.	7.8	7.14	3	200	1405	7.10	7.00	1.10	-
6.350	4.700	DAR ALADAMA DV. INV.	7.1	5.97	17	17450	101300	5.82	5.86	0.04	+
2.980	1.730	ARAB ALUM. IND.	13.9	1.00	17	540	100	1.00	1.00	0.00	-
0.570	0.400	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	13.9	0.00	17	23500	9635	0.41	0.41	-	-
0.590	0.360	INTERMED. PETRO. CHEM.	9	0.00	1	1000	360	0.36	0.36	-	-
0.420	0.280	JOR. ROADSIDE IND.	8	0.00	1	250	100	0.28	0.28	0.00	-
1.760	0.760	UNIV. CHEM. IND.	8.2	10.00	1	100	80	0.80	0.60	0.20	-
2.300	0.740	MATL. CABLE WIRE. MFG.	36.1	0.00	2	300	231	0.77	0.77	-	-
0.730	0.490	JOR. SULPHUR CHEM.	7.8	0.00	19	16850	6935	0.43	0.41	0.02	-
1.470	1.150	ARAB FERTILIZER	14.2	4.65	2	300	903	1.25	1.29	0.04	+
0.730	0.390	KAWTHER INVEST.	9	0.00	20	11000	5670	0.33	0.30	0.03	-
1.300	0.690	UNIV. MOD. IND.	10.4	9.23	13	5060	3324	0.68	0.65	0.03	-
0.970	0.500	JOR. IND. RESOURCES	6	0.00	8	14550	7576	0.52	0.52	-	-
1.400	1.200	MATL. CHEMIST	8.5	10.30	1	250	100	1.23	1.22	0.01	-
1.080	0.690	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	9.3	15.15	11	10650	7087	0.69	0.66	0.03	-
1.410	1.150	EL - SAY READY WEAR	40.8	0.00	1	5000	5800	1.16	1.16	-	-
1.310	0.970	JEL. TOBACCO	6.5	6.01	1	550	534	0.98	0.97	0.01	-
1.220	0.860	UNION CH. & VEG.	9.7	0.00	2	2000	1760	0.87	0.86	0.01	-
0.890	0.660	JORDAN STEEL	9.4	8.33	11	9649	8058	0.84	0.84	-	-
0.670	0.550	MID. EAST COMPLEX	10.0	0.00	6	3050	1678	0.56	0.55	0.01	-
1.100	0.770	ARAB INTL. FOOD FACT.	52.1	0.00	3	13358	12690	0.95	0.95	-	-
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 87.95 %CHG: -1.29											
GRAND TOTAL INDEX: 182.04 %CHG: -1.34											
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 18/08/1998											
0.490	0.270	CENTRAL GEN. STORAGE	9	0.00	1	100	43	0.45	0.43	0.02	-
0.500	0.340	JOR. TRADE FAC.	9	0.00	2	4300	1849	0.43	0.43	-	-
0.800	0.510	UNION INV.	9	0.00	5	16400	8201	0.51	0.51	-	-
0.620	0.250	ARAB FIB. INVEST.	12	0.00	12	14500	3625	0.25	0.25	-	-
1.010	0.790	AL-SABQ INV. CO.	P	0.00	2	19000	17100	0.95	0.90	0.05	-
0.780	0.620	AL-DAMLIYAH	36.3	0.00	1	500	310	0.63	0.62	0.01	-
2.220	1.050	CENTURY INV. GROUP	9	0.00	2	20000	25000	1.30	1.26	0.05	-
0.500	0.310	ARAB FIB. & MED.	9	0.00	1	250	970	0.31	0.30	0.01	-
0.430	0.240	ARAB INTL. INV. TRD.	27.6	0.00	11	8350	2004	0.25	0.24	0.01	-
0.450	0.230	MATL. TEXTILE	9	0.00	1	400	92	0.24	0.23	0.01	-
0.580	0.300	MATL. MOLT. RES. MANFCTO	9	0.00	13	13050	4046	0.30	0.31	0.01	+
0.510	0.350	AL-SABQ INV. CO.	9	0.00	1	250	88	0.35	0.35	-	-
0.690	0.280	KIDRAT PAPER 90% F	9	0.00	1	250	88	0.35	0.35	-	-
1.750	0.970	UNION TOBACCO 87.5% F	10.3	7.72	17	101000	150995	1.62	1.62	-	-
0.730	0.570	RAMI FERNAM	E	0.00	3	15000	8700	0.58	0.58	-	-
0.710	0.510	IND. ENG. & CHEM.	18	0.00	18	29000	14000	0.58	0.58	0.00	-
0.710	0.360	IND. CERAMIC	9.4	0.00	1	1000	360	0.36	0.36	-	-
0.340	0.210	1. TEXTILES MANUP.	9	0.00	1	2000	440	0.23	0.22	0.01	-
0.970	0.550	ADVANCED FIBRAN. IND.	9	0.00	8	4172	2274	0.55	0.54	0.02	-
0.503	0.310	FIBRAN. SALT. P. CONV.	9	0.00	1	800	310	0.31	0.31	0.00	-
0.720	0.430	MATL. POULTRY	9	0.00	5	26050	33286	0.51	0.51	-	-
0.450	0.310	OPTICALS TPWING CO. P	9	0.00	3	5250	1805	0.35	0.35	-	-
0.740	0.580	WAT. ALUMINUM	32.7	0.00	3	7000	4085	0.66	0.66	-	-
1.000	0.690	AL-KENAN. PRINTING CO	10.47	2	1450	1028	0.70	0.71	0.01	+	
GRAND TOTAL INDEX: 182.04 %CHG: -1.34											
123 305741 260577											



# Banned list may increase at 2000 Olympics

SYDNEY (AP) — The number of substances on the banned list may be increased for the Sydney 2000 Olympics despite a push for a reduction, an International Olympic Committee member said Tuesday.

Australian Phil Coles, a member of the IOC and AOC, said the current list of banned substances was too long but was only likely to grow before the next Olympics.

"There is an extensive list called prohibited substances which is too long and very complicated," Coles said. "The list belongs to the IOC and its medical commission. It will be very hard to reduce, in fact they might even add to it."

Leading Australian officials want the IOC to remove substances found in common medicines which provide no real performance-boost but cause unwary athletes to test positive.

"It's pretty hard to put a handle on it," said Coles. "You and I can go to a chemist when we have got a headache

but athletes can't."

Coles criticised comments made by IOC medical commission chief Prince Alexandre de Merode in an interview with French newspaper Le Figaro this week.

De Merode said the IOC should continue its drive to stop the use of doping substances and strive to standardise doping regulations and improve education.

De Merode criticised IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch for recently proposing a reduction in the list of banned drugs.

"The president can have his opinions," de Merode told Le Figaro. "I do not understand, and they make me aghast."

Coles said of de Merode: "A lot of people are hoping he might retire. He's been there such a long time. You never know what he's going to say."

## Spain denies allegations that its sports doctors encourage doping

MADRID (AP) — The government Tuesday angrily denied allegations by the International Olympic Committee's anti-doping chief that Spanish sports physicians encourage athletes to take performance-enhancing drugs.

"Under no circumstances will we allow the good name of Spain's athletics federations and athletes to be smeared," said Deputy Secretary of State for Sports Eduardo Ayuso.

The government will send the head of the IOC medical commission, Prince Alexandre de Merode, a letter demanding that he explain his comments about drugs in Spanish sports, Ayuso said.

De Merode said in Monday's edition of the French newspaper Le Figaro that some Spanish doctors have "rejected the ethics of their profession."

"One must not forget that Spanish sports, for a long time, has had tendencies toward doping," he was

quoted as saying. "A president of the Spanish athletics federation has even been excluded because he refused to select athletes who had not taken doping substances."

Ayuso said Spanish sports officials are mystified by these remarks.

"We simply do not understand why he said this," said Ayuso, who heads Spain's anti-doping commission. "In Spain the fight against drugs in sports has been growing for years."

He said the national testing laboratory was internationally respected, and through bilateral agreements served as the official testing facility for a number of countries, such as Portugal, Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela.

De Merode for his part was responding to comments by IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch, who is Spanish, proposing a reduction in the list of banned drugs.

Ayuso said the IOC official had misconstrued Samaranch's comments, which came in an interview with a Spanish newspaper.

Ayuso said what Samaranch apparently is seeking is to update the list by eliminating substances that athletes used to take to boost their performance but which are now outdated and rarely used.

De Merode's comments came just three days before the IOC executive board is due to meet to discuss the growing drug scandals in sports.

The IOC has scheduled a worldwide anti-doping summit in January.

## 'Rafter donated half U.S. Open winnings to charity'

SYDNEY (AP) — Patrick Rafter secretly donated half of his prizemoney for winning last year's U.S. Open to help sick children in his home state of Queensland, Australia.

Rafter, who has hit peak form by winning two tournaments in the past fortnight as he prepares to defend his title this month, gave away half of his \$650,000, according to his mother Jocelyn Rafter. She said the money was used to build a games room for terminally ill children.

"He likes to share, he likes to help to do things for people and particularly for children," Jocelyn Rafter told Australian Broadcasting Corp.

Tuesday. "I don't know if that has anything to do with coming from a big family where the whole family is orientated that way anyway."

Rafter, the World No. 3, won his only Grand Slam at Flushing Meadows last year. Former World No. 1 John McEnroe recently said the Australian was a likely "one-slam wonder" but Rafter showed he was in strong form with victory over Pete Sampras in the final of the Great American Championship in Ohio on Sunday.

He has won more than \$1 million in the past fortnight.



Arsenal's Frenchman Emmanuel Petit, left, chases after Nottingham Forest's Steve Stone during the F.A. Premiership match at Highbury in London. Petit scored in the match and Arsenal won 2-1 (AP Photo)

## Petit sets up Arsenal victory

LONDON (AFP) — Emmanuel Petit and Marc Overmars gave Arsenal a winning start to their defence of the Premiership title here on Monday night.

Petit's opener in the 58th minute and Overmars' second in the 79th bracketed Nottingham Forest's only reply, from former England international Geoff Thomas.

Highbury was packed for the Double-winners' return to Premiership action and fans roared their approval as the League and FA Cup trophies were brought out in the early evening sunshine.

Manager Arsene Wenger received a huge reception when he stepped up just before the kick-off to be presented with the Manager of the Year award.

Wenger sent out the same line-up which started the 3-0 FA Charity Shield win against Manchester United.

Neither of his summer signings, Argentina's Nelson Vivas and young Frenchman David Grondin, made it on to the substitutes' bench.

Promoted Forest opened with Jean-Claude Darchville, a 700,000-pounds buy from French club Rennes, on his own up front.

An ultimately scrappy first half gave no hint of the excitement to come. Arsenal sparked fitfully but much of their passing lacked crispness.

Forest, with five men across the middle, could not get forward quickly enough to pose a regular threat.

Efforts on goal came from moments of individual inspiration. The closest to a goal came in the 23rd

minute when Nicolas Anelka brought down a diagonal ball from Patrick Vieira, skipped past Steve Chettle and hit the post from a tight angle.

Forest, who had been visibly growing in confidence, began to look stretched. Lee Dixon got behind them more than once but his early crosses seemed to take Anelka by surprise.

Marc Overmars almost broke through as the half-hour approached.

Forest hit back through a 30-yard drive from Steve Stone which whistled past the post. Darchville also looked consistently dangerous as Arsenal struggled to come to terms with his pace.

In the 36th minute Seaman saved with his legs from the Frenchman at the near post after good work by Thierry Bonalair.

The visitors replaced Jon Olav Hjelde at half-time with Des Lytle. The big Norwegian defender pulled a hamstring in the dying moments of the first half and could not continue.

Despite the enforced reorganisation they settled more quickly and looked sharper in most areas of the pitch.

After 49 minutes Geoff Thomas missed a great chance after another stirring run down the right by Bonalair.

Almost immediately, Anelka slid a shot past Dave Beasant's far post at the other end.

Three corners in succession came to nothing for Forest but they continued to press Arsenal. The sense grew of a cup-tie in which giant-killing was on the cards.

Arsenal responded in typical fashion. Ray Parlour

was bundled over at the end of a surging run and from Denis Bergkamp's free-kick Tony Adams headed against the bar. Emmanuel Petit, World Cup warrior, stooped to nod in the rebound.

The dam was breached and for five minutes Arsenal poured through the gap. With an hour gone, Anelka slipped his markers again but his shot ran across the face of the goal. But Forest gradually recovered their poise and found their way forward again.

Thomas compensated for his earlier miss in the 76th minute. Avoiding a lunging challenge from Adams he finished a forceful run through the middle with a firm shot beyond Seaman.

Bergkamp had a quiet night by his standards but he almost hit back immediately. His shot from the edge of the area embarrassed Beasant who conceded the corner.

Two minutes later, Overmars broke from halfway and was immediately clear of the defence. Beasant blocked his first shot but the ball bounced back to the flying Dutchman who hooked it in.

Forest threw on Marlon Harewood but could make no further impression on the Arsenal defence. Steve Stone and Glyn Hodges were both lucky to stay on following first-half bookings with clear fouls. At the end, Petit almost emulated his World Cup Final feat but the ball stayed out. Perhaps 3-1 would have been an injustice to Forest.

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## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### Empoli sack coach

MILAN (AFP) — Luigi Delneri was sacked as coach of Italian Serie A side Empoli on Monday after less than three months in the job. Delneri wanted to scrap the 3-4-3 line-up used successfully by his predecessor Luciano Spalletti, now at Sampdoria, to a 4-4-2 formation which saw them beaten by third division Livorno last week. Club president Fabrizio Corsi said: "There's no point hiding the fact that we were very pleased with what the team did last season, and that we don't want to change the system of play." With the new season starting on the weekend of September 12/13, Corsi said: "It's better to take a decision now, rather than in a month's time." No immediate announcement was made of Delneri's replacement.

### Paris to host European Cup final

BUDAPEST (AFP) — The European Athletics Association (EAA) announced here on Monday that Paris will replace Italian city Florence as the host for next year's European Cup Superleague final. The European Cup, which in the men's event has been won by the British for the past two years, will take place at the Charlety stadium from June 19-20 after the Italians failed to convince the EAA that they had the infrastructure in place to host the event. Carl-Olaf Homen, Finnish President of the EAA, added that the European team for the forthcoming World Cup to be held in September in Johannesburg will be selected based on performances arising from the European athletics championships which start here on Tuesday. The European men's team will be made up of athletes from every country excluding Great Britain and Germany, who have qualified by right for the World Cup, and the women's would be drawn from everywhere apart from current European Cup holders, Russia and runners-up Germany, who also qualified automatically. The European Cup First League Group A, which includes Ireland's newly promoted men and women's teams, is slated to be held in Lahti, Finland, on June 5-6 and the First League Group B, which will involve Spain's men's and women's teams, in Athens on the same weekend.

### Rain rules at ATP International

NEW HAVEN (AFP) — Rain ruled the opening day of the \$1 million ATP International here Monday, with only one match completed before showers wiped out the first session. American Geoff Grant bounced Czech Slava Dosedel 6-2, 6-3, but rain postponed another dozen matches, four of those after they had started. Top seed Pete Sampras and reigning U.S. Open champion Pat Rafter, the Australian who beat Sampras in Sunday's ATP Championship final, have first-round byes and were

not scheduled to play. Rafter's triumph kept Sampras from retaking the top spot from Chile's Marcelo Rios, who is playing at Indianapolis this week. For most top players this will be the final tuneup event for the US Open, which begins August 31 in New York.

### Cooper set to sign for Boro

MIDDLESBROUGH (AFP) — Colin Cooper discussed personal terms with Middlesbrough here on Tuesday after Nottingham Forest accepted a £2.5-million bid for the former England centre-half. The 31-year-old Cooper, who missed his side's 2-1 defeat at Arsenal on Monday after an ankle injury, started his career as a Boro junior before moving to Millwall and then the City Ground. Middlesbrough went into Saturday's Premiership opener with Gary Pallister and Gianluca Festa injured and Steve Vickers suspended. They made the offer for the player at the weekend. Forest boss Dave Bassett confirmed the bid had been accepted: "I had a gentleman's agreement with Colin — it wasn't in his contract — that if they ever came in for him, I would tell him."

### Olympic champion hit by the flu

BRISBANE (AP) — Dual Olympic 1,500-metre swimming champion Kieren Perkins has been hit by the flu a week before the Australian team departs for next month's Commonwealth Games. The triple world record holder and 1992 and 1996 Olympic champion has been away from the limelight since the Atlanta Games and failed to qualify for the world championships earlier this year. He said he was returning to his best form, but the illness has forced him to stop training for the games, starting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on Sept. 11. "It can't be good because he only gets out of the water in extreme circumstances," said Perkins' father and manager Kevin Perkins. "He needs it like a hole in the head." Perkins was due to leave Brisbane with other members of the Commonwealth Games swim team next week. The 41-member team will spend three days in Perth, Australia, before flying to a training camp in Singapore on Aug. 28 to prepare for the KL Games. "He's not feeling very happy and he's still not too good," said Kevin Perkins. "It's not clear when he'll be able to get back into the water."

## Deschamps questioned in doping investigation

ROME (AP) — French midfielder and world champion Didier Deschamps was questioned Tuesday by a prosecutor looking into allegations that top players in Italy's first division soccer league took performance-enhancing substances.

Deschamps, captain of the French national team and a Juventus veteran, walked past reporters after a two-hour meeting with prosecutor Raffaele Guariniello in Turin.

The doping investigation stemmed from an interview by AS Roma coach Zdenek Zeman who said he was amazed by the quick muscular development of players including Gianluca Vialli and Alessandro Del Piero, a star-forward for Juventus.

Guariniello has already met with Vialli and Del Piero, who both denied taking illegal substances. He also questioned Zeman, who stuck to his allegations but did not say which banned drugs the players allegedly used.

In a separate investigation, the anti-doping commission of the Italian Olympic Committee was due to meet later Tuesday with Juventus trainer Gianpiero Ventura and Inter coach Luigi Simoni.

## Baggio doubtful for Champions League tie

MILAN (AFP) — Inter Milan could pay a high price for their Spagnolo Trophy victory after Roberto Baggio pulled a thigh muscle and could miss next week's European Champions League tie.

Monday night's trophy, organised in memory of Genoa fan Vincenzo Spagnolo, who was stabbed to death by an AC Milan supporter in January 1995, saw Inter come from a goal down to beat Genoa 4-2.

But there was a nasty surprise waiting for coach Gigi Simoni, when Baggio limped off at half-time and was ordered three days' complete rest.

"It's a major blow for us, it's just what we didn't need," said the coach. "Ten minutes before the end of the first half, he felt a slight pain and when there were three or four minutes to go, he asked to come off."

On the plus side, Monday's test showed the growing success of their new 20-year-old striker Nicola Ventola and 19-year-old playmaker Andrea Pirlo.

After finding the target

"In the end, he stayed on and I thought it was nothing. I didn't even bother to ask how he was during the second half. It was only at the end that I realised it was a sprain, and now I just hope it clears up quickly."

Baggio, who will miss this week's friendly at Napoli, had been the star of Inter's 4-0 first leg victory last week over Skonto Riga, setting up all of the first three goals and scoring the fourth. Next Wednesday, Inter head for Latvia to finish the job.

Baggio also lined up another goal against Genoa and has already established himself as a key figure in Inter's 1998/99 campaign.

On the plus side, Monday's test showed the growing success of their new 20-year-old striker Nicola Ventola and 19-year-old playmaker Andrea Pirlo.

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against Skonto Riga, Ventola scored the last two Inter goals against Genoa, one of them a header from a superb Pirlo cross.

"I'm getting better with every game," said Ventola, who paid tribute to his small partner, Chilean veteran Ivan Zamorano.

"With this group of players and being with Zamorano I'm learning something new every day — things I need for the present and also for the future," he said.

Ventola's dream is to keep his place in the side when Ronaldo returns and to play alongside the Brazilian next season.

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## Sports

## Squash federation in full swing in preparation for Pan-Arab Games

By Hasher Majoka  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan Squash Federation's (JSF) preparations for the next years Pan-Arab Games are in full swing with a number of tournaments and training camps as well as a new coach on the cards for the national team. JSF president, Jawdat Abdul Mun'em told the Jordan Times.

"The national team attended a training camp in Egypt last month and is currently in Lebanon for another one," Abdul Mun'em said. "Two more training camps are scheduled in the upcoming months, one in Egypt and another one in Pakistan."

Abdul Mun'em said the federation had been allotted JD 65,000 in preparation for the Games, of which about JD 8,000 had already been utilised.

Squash is one of the 12 out of 19 federations whose budget for the next year's Pan-Arab Games has already been approved by the Jordan Olympic Committee (JOC).

The Games are scheduled to be

held in July-August next year in Amman. Many sports federations have complained about the delays in the funds allocation which, they say, hampers preparation of the athletes. The JOC, on its part, accused some federation of presenting "exaggerated and illogical figure" in their budgets.

Abdul Mun'em said the squash team that will be competing in the Pan-Arab Games has already been chosen and has participated in a number of tournaments. These include the Asian Championships where Jordan was placed 5th out of a total of 18 participating teams.

He further added that the national team shall also be competing in the Asian Games to be held in Bangkok in December. He said it was an excellent opportunity to assess the team's performance and chart out future training programmes accordingly.

Another venue for honing the players skills shall be the Arab Clubs Squash Tournament that shall be held at the Hussein sports City and Hasan Squash Complex Aug. 27-30.

Competition for the Under-14 and Under-19 titles shall commence Sept. 1-5th, he added.

An additional JD 6,000 have been made available for the hosting of this tournament in Jordan Abdul Mun'em told the Jordan Times.

"Currently the team is being coached by Wa'el Tabbalat, however services of a professional Pakistani coach have been acquired and he shall take over at the beginning of next year," Abdul Mun'em said. "We hope that will have a positive impact on the technique and performance of our players."

Abdul Mun'em said that the federation enjoys full support from His Royal Highness Prince Hassan who is an enthusiastic squash player, as well as the JOC and the Ministry of Culture and Youth.

Jordanian squash teams has traditionally performed well in the Arab and regional arenas. Jordan won the Arab Championships three times before 1986 when Egypt joined competition and has managed to secure the second spot ever since.

## Boban dreams after World Cup nightmare

MILAN (AFP) — Zvonimir Boban believes that if he can overcome a mistake which cost Croatia a place in the World Cup final, he can also cope with the current revolution at AC Milan.

Milan have changed their players, coach, training methods and system of play under new boss Alberto Zaccheroni, who is preaching the 3-4-3 approach he used successfully last season with Udinese.

The project is fraught with problems, given that Milan's old guard have played 4-4-2 for more than a decade, but Boban is convinced it can work.

And the Croatian skipper is no stranger to dealing with hurdles, having overcome a major one after guiding his country into the semi-finals of France 98 and then committing a terrible blunder.

With the scores level at 1-1, Boban lost possession to Lilian Thuram on the edge of the penalty area at the Stade de France on July 8.

The Frenchman went on to score a 70th minute winner which sent the hosts into a victorious final with Brazil, and Croatia into a third-place play-off where they beat the Dutch 2-1.

"I'm over it now, because fortunately there was the game against Holland three days later and that went well," Boban said. "But at the time, as captain of the Croatia team, it was a drama."

"After that, though, I realised that I had done so much for the team up to that point that I shouldn't feel guilty about the mistake."

The next challenge facing the 30-year-old midfielder is the 1998/99 season, and the change in the way Milan play.

"We're working on it," he said. "We're trying to understand what Zaccheroni wants, but we don't understand it fully yet. However, the fact that we're not there yet doesn't mean we haven't made progress."

"We are aware that we are changing things after so many years... but we are psychologically strong and the new recruits have real character," he told the Gazzetta dello Sport.

"The important thing at the moment is to have the right spirit. The results so far are being treated with caution." Milan have won two of their three friendlies against foreign clubs, but Boban warned: "We also had some great results last summer, and we all know what happened when the season started."

Boban's dream now is for the club to be once again at the top of Italian football.



Mike Tyson

## Tyson hearing set for Sept. 9

LAS VEGAS (AFP) — Mike Tyson's application to return to boxing will be decided here on Sept. 9 by the five-man panel that stripped him of his fighting license 14 months earlier.

The Nevada Athletic Commission scheduled the hearing here Monday after taking into consideration issues of security and venue size.

It is unknown whether or not Tyson plans to speak on his behalf. He did so at a similar hearing in New Jersey last month after applying to have his fighting license renewed in that state.

Tyson withdrew that bid one day before it was to be decided in favour of applying for

re-instatement here.

His case will be come before the men who banished him in July of last year after he chewed off a chunk of Evander Holyfield's right ear in a heavyweight title fight in June of 1997.

Tyson has yet to show the form of his youthful days since serving a three-year prison sentence for rape. He won two titles but has lost much of his invincible aura in the wake of two defeats at Holyfield's hands.

Tyson has fought only six times in the past seven years.

European Athletics Championships  
Diagana's injury casts doubt on hopes

BUDAPEST (AFP) —

France's world 400 metres hurdles champion Stephane Diagana's won his heat here on Tuesday at the European Athletics Championships but his hopes of the title looked in some doubt as a recurring thigh injury flared up.

The 29-year-old, who won bronze in these championships in 1994, said that it had been giving him trouble over the past week and he had only trained for the first time in five days on Monday.

"It's something like a trapped nerve near the groin that then filters down to my thigh. I wanted to run 48 seconds today but after the first two hurdles I decided to ease up because it's not worth risking it," Diagana, who ran 49.28, said.

"I felt it when I warmed up just before I came over to the track. It's very frustrating but I hope that by tomorrow it will have improved," he added.

Diagana, who has blamed his injury plagued season on taking too much time off after winning the world title in Athens last August, won with plenty to spare but he will face a tough task, if not 100 per cent fit, against the in form Russian Ruslan Maschenko.

Maschenko, who has been performing excellently on the Grand Prix circuit filling the runners-up role behind all conquering American Brian Bronson, sailed through his heat in a time of 50.30.

"If I am to give Maschenko a real battle then I am going to have to be really fit and with no nagging worries," Diagana said.

The men's 100 metres heats produced few surprises as the three British favourites Marlon Devonish, Darren Campbell and Dwain Chambers qualified for the second round, but the trio were not taking anything for granted that they would fill the podium places, maintaining Britain's winning streak which stretches back to 1986 when Linford Christie won his first of three titles.

Chambers, who is the world junior record holder, made a flying start but then eased down 5 metres out allowing Greek world indoor 60 metres champion Charambelos Papadakis to take the heat in the fastest time of the morning 10.27.

"I felt very comfortable out there but it really hits you the difference between the junior Europeans and the seniors, it sorts the men from the boys," he said.

"However, I'm going to make the most of it and I've got a big smile on my face which is going to be



Britain's Dwain Chambers (L) leads the pack during the first round of the men's 100 metres event at the 17th European Athletics Championships in Budapest August 18. Chambers finished the heat in second place with a time of 10.28 seconds (Reuters photo)



Switzerland's David Dolle races out of the starting block during the first round of the men's 100 metres race at the 17th European Athletics Championships in Budapest. Dolle won his heat in a time of 10.36 seconds (Reuters photo)

very difficult to wipe off!" he added.

Chambers' smile almost widened to an irreversible width when the man he designated as the biggest danger Angelos Paviakis faded badly to finish fifth

in his heat, although he scraped through as a fastest loser.

Norway's European 200 metres champion Geir Moen, who won silver in the 100 behind Christie in 1994, also laid down his

challenge for the gold winning in a time of 10.38.

"I hate these morning heats because I'm usually really lazy early in the morning. I'm much more up for it in the evening!" he said.

## Philippoussis, Pioline advance

INDIANAPOLIS (AFP) —

Mark Philippoussis, at ease once again with his tennis after months of tension and frustration, beat South African Grant Stafford 6-3, 6-2 at a \$1 million ATP event Monday.

Still at odds with his Davis Cup captain John Newcombe and reportedly some of his former Australian teammates, 22nd-ranked Philippoussis said he is putting the past behind him as the U.S. Open approaches.

"I'm just getting back to basics in tennis. That's what you need to do when things are tough," Philippoussis said. "It's been frustrating for me, but I'm feeling fairly good on court now."

Cedric Pioline also reached the second round, beating Czech Martin Damm 7-6 (7-2) 6-2.

Spaniard Felix Mantilla stopped the upset streak of American Vince Spadea 7-5 7-6 (7/3). Spadea ousted Andre Agassi and Richard Krajicek back to back before going out to top seed Pete Sampras.

David Wheaton had to survive a rain-interrupted



Mark Philippoussis

marathon before finally overcoming 17-year-old Taylor Dent 6-7 (1-7), 7-5, 6-1 in an all-American matchup.

Wheaton relied on experience to overcome the teenaged prodigy, son of former pro Phil Dent of Australia.

New professional Bob Bryan defeated seasoned journeyman Steve Campbell 6-1, 0-6, 6-1 in a roller-coaster match to advance.

"I've been a little bit sick, throwing up for the past four days," said

Bryan, who received a wild card entry into the ATP Tour hardcourt event.

"I didn't have much energy. I was trying to keep the points short and luckily I came out of the chute serving big. I just held on tight and luckily I played some good tennis in the third set."

The victory was a mixed blessing for the 476th-ranked U.S. collegiate champion. He will next face Chilean World No. 1 Marcelo Rios in the second round.

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# Conflicting reports emerge of confessions by suspect in U.S. embassy bombings

KARACHI (AFP) — A Palestinian arrested in Karachi confessed to a role in the bombings of U.S. missions in east Africa, intelligence sources here said Monday, but a U.S. embassy statement in Nairobi denied this.

The sources here said the arrested man told interrogators that Saudi dissident Osama Ben Laden, living in exile with the Taliban group in Afghanistan, financed the operation.

Pakistan confirmed Sunday the arrest of the suspect named Mohammad Sadiq Mowaidha here on August 7, the day of the twin bombings in Nairobi and Dar Es Salaam, and said he was sent back to the Kenyan capital.

The bombings in Kenya and Tanzania killed 257 people, including 12 Americans.

But in Nairobi a joint U.S. embassy and Kenyan Criminal Investigations Department (CID) statement said: "Mohammad Sadiq Odeh has not admitted any responsibility in the bombings in Nairobi and Dar Es Salaam, nor has he implicated anyone else in those events."

Kenyan CID Deputy Director Peter Mbuvi and Sheila Horan, the special agent in charge for the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), confirmed that Odeh,

also known as Abdul Basit Awadh and Mohammad Sadiq Mowaidha, had been returned to Kenya by Pakistan late on Friday.

The suspect is currently being questioned by CID officers and FBI agents, the statement said.

However, sources in Pakistan quoted the suspect as saying he provided technical and logistical support for the bombing in Nairobi.

The 34-year-old told interrogators he was a member of a seven-man team including Egyptians and Lebanese, sponsored by Ben Laden, living as a guest of the Taliban Islamic group in Afghanistan, they said.

Mowaidha was handed over to U.S. and Kenyan authorities in Pakistan and taken out of the country on a special U.S. flight from Karachi on August 14, the sources said.

The suspect was reported to have told interrogators the six others also travelled to Karachi from Nairobi bound for Afghanistan, where Ben Laden was to greet the group.

He said his colleagues managed to pass through Karachi airport immigration and disappear.

The sources said Pakistani investigators raided the addresses given on the disembarkation cards, but these were

found to be fake. A search was launched, but authorities suspect they could have slipped into Afghanistan.

The sources quoted Mowaidha as saying he and other members of the group received military training in camps in Afghanistan during the war against the former Soviet Union.

Mowaidha said he joined the group two years ago and described Ben Laden as "our leader," the sources said.

Ben Laden, belonging to a Saudi family of construction tycoons and wanted by the United States and Saudi Arabia for allegedly bankrolling Islamist attacks, recruited the seven, the suspect said during the interrogation.

The man said he was born in Jordan and had a Kenyan wife. He said he had bought a Yemeni passport from a man named Abdul Basit in Kenya for \$125.

Afghanistan's Islamist Taliban group has denied Ben Laden was engaged in terrorism while on Afghan soil.

Meanwhile, the U.S. embassy Monday began evacuating non-essential staff and their families from Pakistan in a security alert following the bombings in east Africa, diplomatic sources and Pakistani foreign office said.

The U.S. State Department

on Sunday urged American citizens travelling or living abroad to "exercise much greater than usual caution and review security practices."

Visitors to the U.S. embassy in Islamabad found a notice saying the visa section has been "closed until further notice."

The number of employees leaving the embassy and subsidiary missions in Pakistan was not immediately known.

Non-emergency personnel were authorised to leave Kenya and Tanzania, and were ordered out of Albania, Eritrea and Pakistan, the department said in a statement.

"Because of the possibility that U.S. embassy facilities in a number of locations could be targeted, visitors should remain alert to the changing situation and exercise extreme caution," the statement said.

The department issued a separate travel warning for Pakistan.

"American citizens currently in Pakistan are urged to consider carefully their security situation and...to consider seriously departing Pakistan," it said.

The foreign office in a statement here said "the U.S. administration has assured us that essential services nevertheless will be maintained in Pakistan."



RUNNING AFTER DROPS OF WATER: Palestinian youth in the West Bank town of Hebron tries Tuesday to catch with his tongue water dripping from the back of a privately-owned tanker truck which was selling black market water to Hebron residents. Palestinians, forced to buy water on the black market, blame Israeli allotment practices for the severe water shortages that have plagued the West Bank in recent months (AP photo)

## Mubarak, Arafat meet in Mersa Matrouh

MERSA MATROUH (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak met Tuesday with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat about the stalled Middle East peace process.

Arafat did not speak with reporters on arrival at the airport Mersa Matrouh, a beach resort on the Mediterranean Sea 270 kilometres west of the port of Alexandria. His meeting with Arafat was held at an undisclosed location nearby.

The consultations come amid rising Palestinian frustration over Israel's refusal to accept an American proposal on troop withdrawals from the West Bank.

Egypt, meanwhile, has been working with France on a plan to call an international summit to try to get the negotiations back on track. The

summit would involve Arab and Western nations interested in the Middle East peace process but would, initially, exclude Israel and the Palestinians.

Mohammad Sobehi, the Palestinian representative to the Cairo-headquartered Arab League, said Arafat was discussing with Mubarak the "freeze in the peace process and the failure of all attempts to convince the Israelis to accept the American proposal."

He said the Egyptian-French idea for a summit also would be brought up because "there are no fruits from the American attempts, so international efforts are necessary."

Egypt in 1979 was the first Arab state to sign a peace treaty with Israel and has long served as a mediator in Arab-Israeli talks.

## New Turkish army commander pledges to fight Islamism

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkey's newly-appointed top military commander on Monday pledged to continue the army's determined fight against what it sees as rising Islamism.

"Our people should remain vigilant against those who want to bring Shariah [Islamic law] to Turkey," General Hussein Kivrikoglu, chief of the Turkish General Staff, told military units in the eastern city of Malazgirt.

"We have an important responsibility in preventing all activities that target the republic and democracy," Kivrikoglu said, quoted by the Anatolia news agency.

"Any deviation from basic principles of the Turkish republic will cause destruction of our national unity," he added.

In Turkey's constitution, secularism is cited among fundamental principles of the republic.

Kivrikoglu's statement was his first public remark since he was named the country's top commander at a meeting of the Supreme Military Council on August 6.

Analysts said that through his remarks, Kivrikoglu defied comments by some Turkish and foreign press reports that he was "more moderate" regarding the army's struggle against Islamists compared to his predecessor, General Ismail Hakki Karadayi.

Kivrikoglu is due to formally take over his post from retiring Karadayi on August 30.

The Turkish army, under Karadayi's command, played a vital role in last year's ouster of Turkey's first Islamist Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan.

Erbakan, who became premier in June 1996, had to resign one year later under strong pressure by the military, which regards itself as guarantor of the country's secular regime.

The army had accused Erbakan of encouraging Islamists. Since then the constitutional court has dissolved Erbakan's pro-Islamic Welfare Party on charges that it has undermined the secular regime, and barred the former premier from politics for five years.

## Sudan opposition leaders call for continued struggle

CAIRO (AP) — Sudanese opposition leaders on Tuesday rejected Sudan's new constitution, which is based on Islamic law, and vowed to keep up their struggle for democracy.

The statements came in a communiqué following a three-day meeting here by members of the National Democratic Alliance, an umbrella group for Sudanese opposition parties.

The communiqué said the opposition leaders "assert their rejection of the shameful constitution, which the regime installed under a police state (while) it was curtailing freedom. They vowed to 'continue steps on the path of national struggle until our noble people reach their ambitions of... democracy in unity and peace.'"

Egypt invited the opposition leaders to Cairo after peace talks between the Sudanese rebels and the Khartoum government earlier this month in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa failed to make progress.

The meeting was attended by John Garang, leader of the Sudan People's Liberation Army, which has been fighting since 1983 for more freedom for the south's animists and Christians from the Islamic north.

Also at the conference were Mohammed Osman Al Mingani, who heads the alliance, and former Prime Minister Sadiq Al Mahdi.

Al Mahdi was ousted in a 1989 military coup by Lieutenant General Omar Al Bashir, who has installed an Islamic regime in Khartoum.

The new constitution, adopted June 30, is based on Islamic sharia law but promises to safeguard the rights of religious minorities.

against non-Muslims and pledged to continue working for a united, secular Sudan.

They also accused Al Bashir's regime of using "food as a weapon" in its battle against the southern rebels.

Thousands of people face starvation in southern Sudan, especially in Bahr Al Ghazal province. Khartoum and the rebels have agreed to a three-month ceasefire to allow foreign aid workers to get needed food and medicine to the area.

Sudan's parliament protested Egypt's hosting of the meeting, saying it was tantamount to fostering the rebels.

But President Hosni Mubarak said in an interview published Monday that he met with the rebels to try to keep the neighbouring nation unified.

"This meeting was held in the interest of our brothers in Sudan," he told the weekly newspaper Mayan.

Egypt worries that a breakup of Sudan could jeopardise the Nile, its main source of water.

## Iran appoints new envoy to France, speaks of 'positive evolution' in ties

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran named a new ambassador to France Tuesday and said it detected a "positive development" in bilateral relations ahead of a visit this week by French Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine.

Ali Reza Moayeri, 42, told AFP the French government had agreed to his nomination to replace current ambassador, Hamid Reza Assefi, and that he would take over in late September.

Moayeri is currently an advisor to President Mohammad Khatami and he previously counselled former President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani on international affairs.

Meanwhile, foreign ministry spokesman Mahmoud Mohammadi said he also hoped Vedrine's visit would lead to a "constructive cooperation on bilateral, regional and international issues."

"Given the positive development in our relations with Paris, we hope the visit will open a new chapter in bilateral ties," said Mohammadi, quoted

by the official Iranian news agency IRNA.

Vedrine is due to arrive late Friday for a two-day visit amid the thaw in relations since Khatami took office in August last year.

IRNA said Monday that Vedrine's visit "is very important and can be a turning point in relations."

Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharazi has been invited to travel to France, but no date has been set.

In May former French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing visited Iran.

Roland Dumas was the last French foreign minister to visit here in 1991 amid tense relations between the Islamic republic and the European Union (EU).

But a growing number of EU officials have been travelling here in the past year, encouraged by the promises of reform made by Khatami's government.

## American people will decide Clinton's fate

By Sarah Jackson-Han  
Agence France Presse

WASHINGTON — They forgave him the first time he admitted to an adulterous affair, and now U.S. President Bill Clinton is betting his presidency that the American people will forgive him again.

In four historic hours of sworn testimony Monday and again in a brief national address, Clinton admitted to having had inappropriate relations with a former White House intern but not to perjuring himself when he denied it under oath in January.

It was a reprise of the hair-splitting with which, as a candidate, he admitted smoking marijuana but not inhaling it and causing "pain in my marriage" amid allegations of a longtime affair with a former lounge singer.

In the end, neither admission kept Americans from electing him to the White House in 1992 and re-electing him in 1996. He now appears to be betting his political future that public opinion will support him again.

And public opinion, which so far continues to give Clinton high approval ratings, is crucial. Independent counsel Kenneth

Starr is now certain to send a report to Congress citing credible evidence of an impeachable offence, experts say, and Congress will look to the pollsters as they weigh what to do.

"Absolutely there will be a report," said Allan Lichtmann, a political scientist at American University here. "President Clinton has got one shot here — he can't get caught again."

The American public, said Georgetown University Government Professor Wilcox Clyde, "doesn't want to end the presidency over this." Clinton's four-minute mea culpa on live television "wasn't a very good speech, but the public will buy it," he predicted.

"I think the American people will be glad to get this behind us," Senator Orrin Hatch, a Republican from Utah and chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, said after Clinton's late-night address.

Americans will be willing "to allow this president to continue for another two years and then replace him with somebody who hopefully will be better," he added.

Starr, who has spent four years and \$40 million investigating allegations of wrongdoing by the

Clinton, "has two choices," said Viet Dinh, associate professor of law at Georgetown University.

"He can indict Clinton or make a report to Congress that he's found credible evidence of an impeachable offence, which is defined as 'high crimes and misdemeanours,'" Dinh said.

The latter course "seems like a safe bet. He can send it without making a recommendation as to whether Congress should impeach or not," he added.

Legally, experts say, the president was on shaky ground in admitting a sexual affair but denying perjury, and many possible explanations might have backfired.

Clinton's assertion that he told the truth in denying an extramarital dalliance in sworn testimony in January apparently hinged on a very narrow definition of sexual relations approved by the judge in a civil sex-harassment case against him.

The strength of Starr's case against Clinton for the serious offences of obstructing justice or tampering with witnesses isn't yet publicly known. And if he has substantial evidence on those counts, "Clinton's in trouble," said Clyde.

Starr is investigating whether Clinton enlisted others in an effort to buy the young woman's silence by helping her find a job and to reclaim personal gifts from Clinton that might have helped prove a sexual affair.

"Some people say this was a little white lie," said Eugene Volokh, who teaches constitutional law at the University of California, Los Angeles.

"But this was a self-serving lie, while his forces defamed people he knew were telling the truth," he said, such as Clinton's paramour, Monica Lewinsky, her former confidante, Linda Tripp, who took the whole story to Starr, and Starr himself.

Should the public again prove willing to forgive what Clinton wants Americans to see as an all-too-human, all-too-common transgression, he will nonetheless have lost his moral authority and much of his clout.

That would leave his Republican opponents in an enviable position: They'd get two more years with a weakened, humiliated president, with Clinton's popular vice president, Al Gore, denied the advantage of running as an incumbent in the year 2000 elections.

## Madame Chiang's NYC estate sold

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The Long Island home of Madame Chiang Kai-shek, widow of the Nationalist generalissimo who fought China's communists in the 1940s, has been sold, for more than the \$2.8 million, the New York Times reported. The Stillman organisation, a Manhattan construction company, bought the property, it said, after the owners — descendants of Madame Chiang's sister, Soong Ailing — decided it was time to sell.

## Sales soar for 'Fondle Me Bubba' dolls

NEW YORK (R) — Sales soared of "Fondle Me Bubba" dolls, caricatures of President Clinton that utter suggestive remarks when squeezed below the waist, the creator of the dolls said. The cloth-covered, stuffed Bubbas deliver such lines as "I'll bomb Baghdad, I'll bomb France, if you'll remove my underpants" and "Baby, you make my knees knock." "We're getting a lot of calls," said Roseland, New Jersey-based attorney Ted Theise, who created the doll. "We've been inundated." The doll, sold in novelty stores, seems to appeal to both Clinton supporters and detractors alike, Theise said.

## Young men prefer anorexic women to obese

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. researchers confirmed what every woman already suspected — young men would rather date an anorexic woman than one who is obese. They said their findings show that when it comes to dating, looks are still more important than substantive factors like intelligence and personality — at least to young men.

## More people flock to Disneyland

PARIS (AP) — Where do people flock to when they come to Paris? Notre Dame? The Eiffel Tower? The Arc de Triomphe? Yes, but even more are going to Disneyland. The theme park outside Paris knocked Notre Dame out of first place in the hearts of visitors to the capital last year, French tourism officials said Monday.

## Street or plaza named after Diana

PARIS (AP) — As the anniversary of Princess Diana's death in Paris approaches, 70 per cent of French people want a street or plaza to be named after her, according to a survey. In the Gallup poll, to be published in Tuesday's France-Soir newspaper, 26 per cent of respondents were against the idea, and 4 per cent had no opinion. Diana was killed last Aug. 31 in a car crash in the Pont de l'Alma traffic tunnel.

## Penn accused of hitting photographer

MALIBU (AP) — A photographer accused actor Sean Penn of hitting him with a rock Monday for videotaping the actor while he walked with his father. No immediate charges were filed against Penn, who turned 30 Monday. Penn's publicist, Carol Stine, had no comment. Penn told sheriff's deputies he was walking along a rural road with his father, director Leo Penn, when Michael Sindell confronted him.

## Stolen painting signed Adolf Hitler found in Spain

VALENCIA (AFP) — A painting attributed to Adolf Hitler, which was stolen in this eastern Spanish city 16 months ago, was found Monday, Spanish police said. "Woman in Blue" was discovered in a vehicle in Valencia along with two other paintings. Police estimated the three artworks had a total value of \$26,600. The police said they had traced the people looking to buy the paintings, one of whom was Dutch.

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